

[著] 丈月城
Illustr. BUNBUN

Campioness of Sanctuary

神域のキャンピオーネス

トロイア戦争

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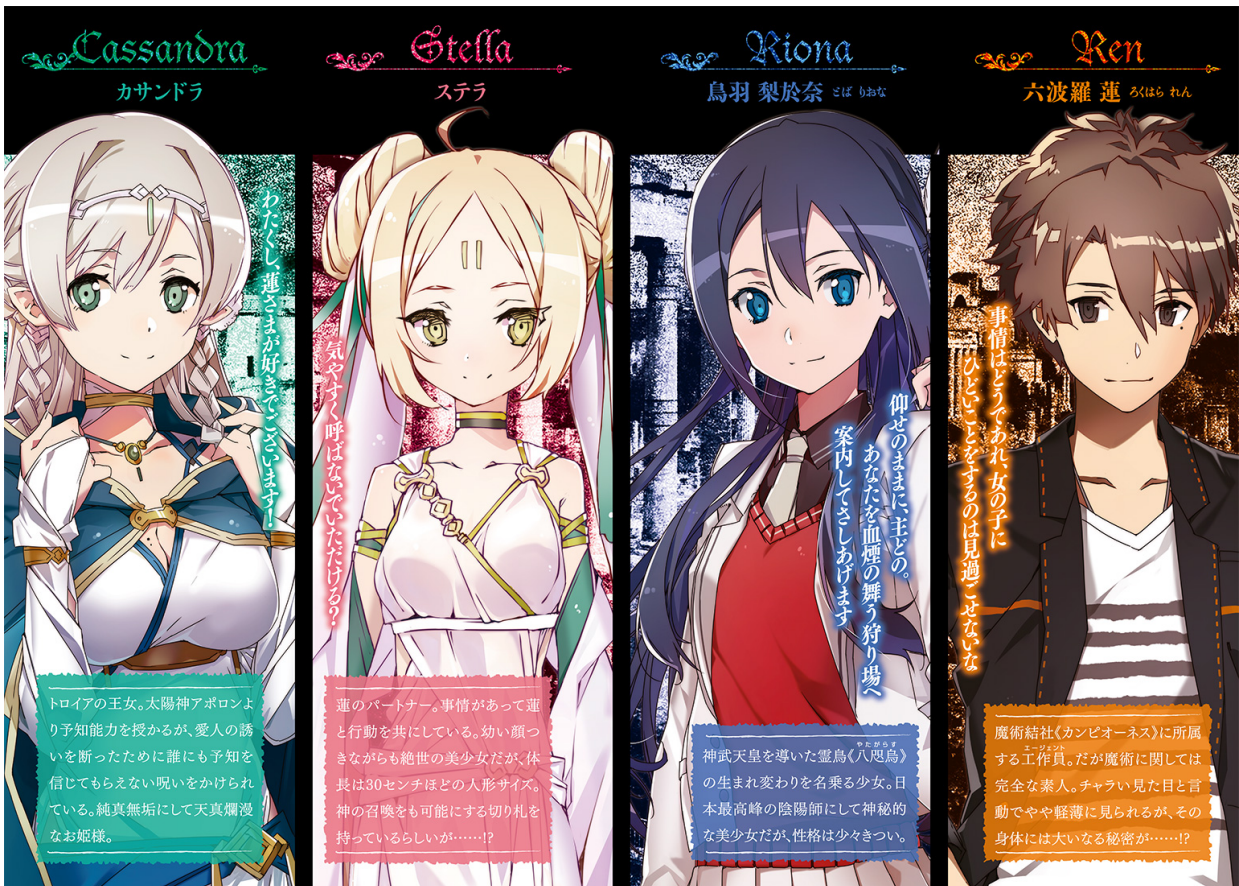
[著]

丈月城

Illust.

BUNBUN





王女カサンドラは

横たわる六波羅蓮の上に

ほぼ裸のままおいかがり、

みごとな肢体を彼に密着させて、

口づけを捧げた。

「蓮さま。

どうか梨が奈さまと

わたくしの想いを

お受け取りくださいませ」

たおやかなる美姫の祈りが奇跡を起こす――





Tour Guide of Sanctuary “Troia”

Troia War

One of the greatest episodes even within Greek mythology.

In order to bring down Troia City in minor Asia, various countries of Greece formed an allied force under the command of Agamemnon, the king of Mycenae. They crossed over the sea in a great expedition.

Not only there were legendary heroes including the hero Achilles fighting each other, even the gods of Olympus were taking part in the war in the fierce fighting.

What put an end to the prolonged battle was the Trojan Horse.

It was the plan that was hatched by that famous hero, Odysseus.

.

City of Troia

This city was also called Ilios. It was extremely prosperous.

The king who ruled it descended from Zeus.

An archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann who believed in Troia's existence invested his private funds and set out to discover the city, and achieved a great success that went down in history.

.

The confrontation of the gods

The defending Troia force and the attacking Greece force, both sides were supported by the gods. Assisting the force of Greece were the goddess of wisdom and war Athena, the god of sea Poseidon, and the chief god Zeus's wife Hera.

On the other hand, god of sun Apollo, god of war Ares, and god of beauty and love Aphrodite supported the force of Troia.

The chief god Zeus didn't support any side, he was watching over both factions equally—.

.

Olympus

A high mountain that was nearly 3000 meter above sea level. The sacred ground that was considered where the gods of Greek mythology were living.

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Prologue

[The world is filled with gods.]

Facing the note PC on the desk, the keyboard was typed with tapping sound.

A rough copy of a research report was in the middle of writing.

[God of light, god of sky, god of earth, god of fire, god of harvest, god of war, god of death—]

[The gods manipulate the nature, destroy our civilization and the world itself, or perhaps they remake it and reign as the absolute ruler. We mankind possess no strength that could possibly oppose them.]

[Such power “that make a god to be a god”]

[This power is called 《authority》 . However]

[If, this authority—can be possessed by us human. If the seizing of it can be accomplished completely by the will and quick wits of an individual. It won't even be an exaggeration to say that such person obtained a power that is equal to god.]

[Such person should be called as 《demon king》 by us.]

[In the past, the ancestor of my family, Caesar Blandelli was called with that title. It was an era where he was given the free rein with the people's awe and subordination.]

[However, in return for accepting his rule and arrogance, he would often carry out the great exploit of 《godslaying》 for the sake of the weak humans. When the gate to the world of mythology was opened, he would

jump into the other side and accomplished even the rewriting of the mythology's synopsis—]

When the report was written until that point.

The note PC's—communication application notified the arrival of telephone call.

The ID of the caller was unfamiliar. However, Julio Caesar Blandelli received the call with a certain conviction.

"Julio. Rokuhara Ren here, is it a good time for the regular contact?"

".....Ren. Are you using a borrowed item again?"

The caller was just as he expected, it was his old Japanese friend.

Excessive diligence and punctuality—Julio once harbored such image that was nearly a prejudice toward Japanese. However, this man pulverized that view.

"Julio also know it right? The other day my smartphone got soaked and broke. But I asked Eric who became my roommate in the guest house to lend me his PC."

"Looks like you're having fun with your return there after so long."

"Hahahaha. I'm not even stopping by at my home in Tokyo though."

Rokuhara Ren laughed brightly at the other side of the PC's speaker and wireless LAN.

Right now he was in a place that was ten thousand kilometer away from Julio's home in Spain—.

"More importantly, about the incident here.....at Kobe. The situation isn't good. The site at Port Island is sealed by JSDF, I cannot even get close."

"So you were just a step late. Fine then Ren. I'll prepare a free pass from my side."

"Julio, you can do something like that!?"

"Don't underestimate my family and the association's power. Connection and political power should be used while it can be used."

"Even though this isn't even Europe—but Kansai region in Japan?"

"I can. I have acquaintance with several old families in Japan. I'll contact them."

"Our company is really amazing huh."

"It's not a company. It's the association 《Campiones》. Remember that it's one of the guilds with most influence in our business circle. You too are already a member of it."

Campiones. It had the nuance that meant winners or warriors.

It was said that the name came from one of the titles that praised the ancestor of Blandelli House that once built the corner stone of the association. He was a demon king, and an absolute winner bar none.

And then the Japanese who became the glorious association's—newest comrade laughed lightly.

"Hahahaha. I don't know at all about the world of magician. Really sorry."

"More importantly how is Stella's mood? That matter is far more important."

"I somehow asked her about the god that could be “summoned” at the other side. The “other world” this time is in Greek mythology, the old haunts of Stella right? She mentioned various names."

Several names floated up inside Julio's mind.

The god of sky Zeus, his wife Hera, the god of sun Apollo, the god of blacksmith Hephaestus, the god of war Ares, Dionysius, nymph Harmonia, hero Aeneis, etc.

They were the characters coloring the magnificent Greek mythology—but.

".....Errr, first there is no problem with the god called Apollo. Then Ares, perhaps it will be fine if it's just calling him. Then it's better not to attempt calling the warped Hephaestus as much as possible. If possible she doesn't want to meet with the haughty goddess Hera. Also she doesn't see eye to eye with the straight-laced Artemis....."

"If I got the right impression"

After listening the broad stroke, Julio murmured.

"Don't expect anything except from Apollo, it feels like that's what she's saying."

"So you too Julio. Actually I was also vaguely getting that feeling."

"Stella is also a peculiar woman after all. She must have a lot of enemy. Anyway I wish you luck. With how we shouldn't even put our hope on something like god's protection, luck is exactly our greatest ally."

After a short pause, Julio clearly told.

"Listen well Ren, change the mythology's synopsis without fail. If it's necessary—then kill even the god."

That was an encouragement toward the man who at present was the in nearest position toward the 《demon king》.

Chapter 1 – The Gate of the World of Myth

1

"Do your excellency know about the folk tale of Emperor Jinmu's eastern expedition?"

Toba Riona said as soon as she sat opposite of the governor of Hyogo Prefectural.

"When the legendary founding Emperor of Japan, Emperor Jinmu went in an expedition to the eastern country.....he was guided by a bird called 《Yatagarasu》 that was sent by heaven. It's the episode when the emperor passed through the enemy territory. And then Yatagarasu is also a sacred bird that is deeply related with the most renowned onmyouji in Japan's history, Abe no Seimei—it's a holy bird."

Her way of talking was ladylike. Her face and figure were also appropriate for that.

Yes. Toba Riona who was smiling in front of the prefectural governor of Hyogo was an owner of outstanding good look and refinement. Her hair with its gentle waviness was also beautiful. It was long and overflowing with grace. The blazer she was wearing was also the uniform of a girl's school that was considered to be the most or second most prestigious even in Kansai.

However, the governor looked baffled.





Surely he had heard about Riona's occupation, which was semi government official.

"Miss.....Councilor Toba. That's an interesting story. But right now let me confirm regarding the matter of disaster relief operation request from Hyogo Prefecture."

"No, that's no good."

Riona easily refused the request and chuckled.

"Are you intending to silence this me and grasp the initiative of this conversation? Even though you are his excellency the prefectural governor, that's impolite."

A seventeen years old little girl was saying that to an adult in the first half of his fifty. However, the governor was only scowling. He was completely unable to take effective countermeasure against the great disaster that was currently happening within Kobe. That situation forced him to be patient.

They were in the governor room of the prefectural office. She was facing the owner of the room with a stately wooden table between them.

Riona sat down on the leather sofa while entering the main topic.

"Please don't worry. I've heard the news. —At the early dawn of the day before yesterday, a space distortion appeared at Port Island, an artificial island within Kobe City at Hyogo Prefecture. The diameter is approximately 100 meter. There is still no sign of the space distortion vanishing..... Your excellency, you made a misjudgment by overlooking our organization and requested for disaster relief operation from the ministry of defense."

"What do you mean?"

"Most likely your excellency ordering a drone to scout out the inside of the space distortion was the cause for the appearance of the flying type

creature at Port Island. I believe that those harpuia were chasing after the drone that was returning from “that side” and arrived in Kobe.”

"Ha, harpu—what? Besides “that side” you said?"

"It's the reading in Greek language for harpy, a bird monster. With your excellency's age, have you ever encountered an RPG before? I often used them as material in demon combination. Also, what I mean by that side is"

Riona frankly spoke as a “councilor”.

"Spreading out at the other side of the space distortion—the so called another world."

"Another wo—!?"

"That thing that is well known in manga, anime, and light novel. The half-human half-bird creature harpuia came out, so “that side” this time must be the world of mythology that is based on Greek mythology as expected."

"....."

"My? When I looked up in the internet using your excellency's name, the article of an interview with the title [Approval For the Bill Regulating Manga Presentation] came out. For mythological monster to appear right at the territory of such person and then acted with extreme violence..... Fate too is really sarcastic isn't it."

"You! There is a limit even if you're fooling around!"

It must be because Riona was browsing internet using her smartphone. The governor finally yelled angrily.

However Riona didn't pay any attention. Her slender fingers continued dancing across the touch panel—.

"I'm not fooling around. At the site of the incident those harpuia are continuing their [human hunting] even now. Your excellency's resolve and

devotion will be necessary in order to deal with them.Ah, I'm glad. Your excellency the governor's—favorite motto is [all-out effort] isn't it. [No matter what kind of difficulty it is I will never lose heart, I won't run away, I will clash with the problem head-on and cut open the path without fail. All-out effort, that is my belief], it said here."

Riona smiled at the sentence that would set the teeth of anyone on edge.

It was the governor's declaration of belief that was posted in Hyogo Prefecture's official site.

"Splendid. It will be fine if it's like this. Your excellency, you are designated as the [master] of this me—the councilor of 《Institute of Divinities》 Toba Riona. Let's set out to the frontline together. A leader who will liberate all my power is necessary."

"Wa, wait a second. I made contact with you all due to the advice from JSDF you know?"

Several hours ago. Responding to the request of the prefectural governor, a unit was dispatched from the maritime self-defense force's Hanshin base. It seemed someone said it during that time. 'If we are facing a 《foreign space disaster》, then there is a limit at what we can do. Request for the specialist to be dispatched', that someone said—.

"They told me to ask you Institute of Divinities to send in the equipment called shikigami or shikiouji that you have. Though I completely don't understand what is that about."

"In onmyodo they are called shikigami and shikiouji. In Shugendo they are called gohoudouji. If it's in Harry Potter than they are called magical creature. In short—it refers to handy familiar. Demon exorcism, house cleaning, civil engineering and construction, they can be used for various things. And now, you're really fortunate your excellency the governor. Your request for disaster relief operation is accepted without trouble."

Riona smiled with a faked cheerfulness.

"The one sent here is one that surpassed every kind of familiar—the queen of all shikigami."

"Fo, fortunate? Besides what do you mean by queen.....?"

"I'm referring to me, this Toba Riona. Although I have this appearance, I am an existence that was sent to this world by god. So to speak I'm similar to angel. If I attain enlightenment than perhaps even becoming like Jesus Christ won't be a farfetched dream."

"That's absurd....."

"That's a foolish reply there. Have you forgotten my story just now? Yatagarasu who guided Emperor Jinmu. Actually I am the reincarnation of that Yatagarasu, this Toba Riona..... Please remember that from now on."

"No, but. Yo, you are.....not a bird right?"

"Fufufufu. Your excellency didn't study the classic enough. Yatagarasu is the representation of sun, in other words it is the spirit of sun, the god Kamo Taketsunumi. That is written in the ancient document Engi-Shiki you know?"

"Ka, Kamo Taketsu.....?"

"He was a god—who incarnated to be Yatagarasu in order to protect Emperor Jinmu by the order of the sun goddess Amaterasu. He was also the ancestor of Kamo family name that produced Kamono Tadayuki, the master of Abe no Seimei. It seems that I was somehow this god in my previous life. But, I'm not allowed to freely wield that excessively powerful strength....."

Riona whispered with diabolically bewitching voice.

"That's why a [master] is necessary. A master who will give the order [Make use of all your spiritual power, in order to send me to the destination] just like when Yatagarasu guided Emperor Jinmu. Now. Quickly give me the order. Say [Carry out mine order with most haste, in accordance with

the ancient legal codes]. I will carry out that order by putting my body and life on the line."

With most haste, in accordance with the law

Kyu-Kyu Nyo Ritsu Ryo. It was one of the incantations that was especially powerful in onmyoudo.

After speaking about the meaning of that incantation, Riona informed the governor coolly.

"But in the end Yatagarasu is just a guide. It will mow down the enemy standing in the way and cut open a path.....only when guiding its master. I will have you come along too with me. Your excellency the governor, please accompany me until the frontline, putting that body and life on the line."

Toba Riona was the incarnation of the sacred bird Yatagarasu, she was the most prominent onmyouji in Japan. (TN: Onmyoudo translated to English is Tao, I think. While onmyouji is Taoist, I think. Haha, anyway I'll keep using onmyouji and onmyoudo from now on.)

Even without using any spell, her eyes and words possessed the mystique to beguile ordinary person. The governor had lost his senses without him noticing it and he muttered in a daze.

"I.....command you. Carry out my command with urgentness....."

"As you wish, master. I will guide you to the hunting ground where blood and smoke dances rampant."

At this moment, Riona's both eyes shined blue.

The eyeball's white part and pupil part were all shining deep blue. That was the proof—that the seal binding the golden sacred bird was loosened.

If it was her right now, then she would be able to compete with Abe no Seimei equally.

Yes. Now she was the equal of that great figure who rivaled the reigning champion of Japan's figure skating, the great onmyouji who was unmistakably the most famous in the world, that renowned [legendary great onmyouji]. (TN: Is that figure skater champion really that legendary in Japan equaling Abe no Seimei? Never heard of him until I researched him in internet just now)

Riona chuckled after she finally obtained freedom.

.

And then two hours later.

After borrowing an anti-tank helicopter from the JSDF, Riona and the governor finally "arrived on the location".

"Your excellency. That vortex that looks like M78 nebula, that is the space distortion."

Countless lights converged and formed a [vortex].

It had a diameter around 100 meter. The shape was similar with a nebula. But, the place the vortex sprang forth wasn't at space. It was at the north public park, located at the northern edge of Kobe's Port Island.

It was a place of relaxation that was equipped with lawn and promenade. It was facing Osaka Bay—.

"Co, Councilor Toba"

"What is it your excellency? I will accept two of your questions."

"Stop joking at this kind of time. Ho, how is this helicopter moving!?"

There were two seats for crew. The seats were lined up vertically.

Riona sat on the pilot seat at the front, while the governor sat at the back seat. However, Riona wasn't holding the control stick. In exchange, there was a "talisman" pasted on the control stick.

The talisman had a sketch that looked like pattern along with the kanji of [demon] and [moon] drawn on it.

"As you can see, this is the miracle of the charm I stuck here. The art of onmyoudo to control shinigami can also be used in this way. Well, based on my limited information.....there is no onmyouji other than this me who can do this in Japan."

The control stick that had a charm put on it was swaying slowly by itself.

Riona wasn't controlling it. It was autopilot. The anti-tank helicopter (plus charm) was deciding the direction it was transporting its two passengers automatically.

"I, I understand. I don't want to understand but, I understand."

"My. You're repeating yourself too much, your excellency."

"Rather than that Councilor Toba-. You should know already too right!? The JSDF's equipment—is completely effective against those creatures!"

KlililAAAAAaaaaaaa-!

A shrieking voice that tore the ear could be heard. It was shrill. It sounded like a woman's scream, but it was also similar with the cry of a monstrous bird. Huge bird shaped organisms were approaching from a few hundred meters ahead. Their number was nine. They were screaming without pause while flapping their wings.

Riona muttered "Harpuia".

Those nine birds were—half human half bird.

Their face and upper body looked like human woman. From their shoulders there was no arm, but bird wing in exchange. Their lower body had strange shape like bird itself. Their feathers were jet black like crow.

"Toba-kun. Before you arrived, I saw they got showered—by JSDF's bombardment. But, not even a single one could be shot down—!"

"So it come to this."

The instant Riona muttered, shells flew at the nine harpuia.

GUAANN! GUAANN! GUAANN! GUAANN!

It must be the JSDF's ground force. They lined up things like lightly armored cars armed with self-propelling howitzer and multiple mortars in addition for the bombardment preparation.

The bombardment repeatedly—landed on the nine harpuia. And yet.

Right after the impact, all the shells would vanish with *Hyuh!* sound like magic trick. The whole body of the bird monsters only faintly shined ominously. They were completely unharmed!

"It's useless using that. If you attack these things that are not of this world without first having the attack follow the required steps of sorcery, the attack will become "inexistent"."

Riona began taking action in front of the shaking governor.

"Grow big, become heaven. Heaven doesn't stop in place, virtue work for one's own advantage——"

It was the spell of country's defense and triumph. The anti-tank helicopter spouted fire *GAGAGAGAGAGA-!*. The large caliber autocannon installed on its nose was starting to fire rapidly.

"Oo!" The governor looked with shining eyes.

It was because the swarm of harpuia was wounded under the rain of bullets. The 20mm bullets gouged and pulverized the flesh of the bird monsters. Fresh blood scattered everywhere. Rapid-fire. Rapid-fire. Pieces of meat and feathers, blood and bones were scattered in the air. The demons who couldn't speak human language were screaming the scream of monstrous bird.

KUEEEEE-! KUEEEEE-! KUEEEEE-!

Seven harpuia were soaked in blood and changed into lump of meat. They were crashing to the ground noisily.

"So this is, your ability!?"

"I am the queen of 《those who fly》. I can turn everything that travel in the sky to be my shikigami. That's why I can simply just insert a 《formula》 into the helicopter's equipment. I cannot understand those people who can't let go of the past and like to use magic sword of demon slaying, but machine gun of demon exorcism is not bad."

"It's just as you say!"

However—. The rapid-fire of the machine gun suddenly cut off.

On top of that, the remaining two harpuia that survived tackled the anti-tank helicopter with their body. They grabbed on the helicopter frame and struck *gan, gan!* with their wings.

The harpuia had large body. They were three times higher than human. Their large mouth—the mouth that had the same shape and construction like human was biting at the frame of the anti-tank helicopter!

Gishi-, gishi-, gishi-!

Using the terrific strength of their jaw and the toughness of their teeth, the helicopter was creaking. It was creaking.

Furthermore the anti-tank helicopter was rapidly dropping in altitude. It was falling. The two harpuia were amused by that and they began to flap their wings to speed up the fall.

They happily fell together toward the ground while making the helicopter accompanied them. They planned to crash the helicopter to the ground!

"Wh, why isn't the helicopter moving, Toba-kun!?"

"The time's up. The time limit of the order that I received from your excellency before this has arrived. If you require the continuation of my

ability, then command me to continue fighting in the same way like before——"

"A, anyway just do it! I permit it!"

"By your will. I have received your command, master."

ZUGAAAAAAAAAAN-!

The anti-tank helicopter finally crashed on the ground. However, Riona was chanting her spell just before it happened.

"O auspicious star, come all. Disperse the ominous star."

It was the words of power to make a shikigami safeguarded them. Thanks to that, although the anti-tank helicopter crashed on the ground——on asphalt, they were only shaken by the impact.

Tragedy like the engine exploding or the gasoline caught fire didn't occur.

Well, the governor at the backseat screamed "UWAAAAAAH!?" though. Although he wore the seatbelt tightly and also wore a helmet. He got away with only injury to the degree of "a bit of traffic accident". On the other hand, Riona was——kicking the door of the pilot seat during the impact.

The frame that was turned into shinigami received its master will and automatically blew away its door with *bon-!* sound.

Riona jumped outside. She didn't wear seatbelt or anything so she could get out fast. In her case it was more dangerous to have her body restrained by such thing. And then, she threw her body to the ground while pulling the trigger of a handgun.

The handgun was hidden under her skirt inside a leg holster on her thigh.

"Now——fly. Kyu-Kyu Nyo Ritsu Ryo!"

Although she chanted her spell, she wasn't aiming her gun or anything. There was no need of that.

The bullets were also Toba Riona's servant, her shikigami. They flew automatically toward the prey. Even the recoil from shooting was absorbed.

She kept lying down on the ground while firing ten shots with one hand as though shooting with air gun.

The 9mm parabellum bullets that were turned into shikigami pierced the two surviving harpuia, five bullets for each of them. They displayed the miraculous effect of conquering devil and crushing evil.

The bird monsters that weren't of this world instantly exploded.

Blood and pieces of flesh were scattered while they easily died.

"Sple, splendid Toba-kun-. No, now help me out from here——!"

"There is no time. I will perform reconnaissance while your excellency's order is still valid."

"What did you say!?"

"Normally, space distortion will start to shrink after 48 hours. But, the distortion point in Kobe here is still not showing such sign. A forced entry reconnaissance is urgently needed."

Even when her [Goshujin-sama] was pleading at her from inside the crushed helicopter, Riona didn't even glance back.

In exchange she chanted "transform" shortly and shapeshifted into a blue swallow. A 160 cm girl quickly changed into a bird with a wing span of 30 cm. The bird quickly flapped its wings and flew away swiftly, into the vortex of light that appeared in the northern edge of this Port Island.

She headed toward what the authorized people called space distortion—the entrance into another world.

2

After she transformed into a swallow and entered the vortex of light.

A dazzling light danced boisterously within Riona's field of vision. Light. Light. Light. Light. Light. It was like entering inside kaleidoscope. But, she endured and continued to advance straight ahead—

Suddenly, she passed through the territory of chaotic light.

"Sea!"

An ocean was stretching out. There were also several small islands. However, she couldn't find any large land at all direction. And above all else the sea was blue. It was marine blue that looked so excessively vivid. It was obviously not the scenery of Kobe in Hyogo Prefecture.

"Is that ship.....?"

Several sailing ships were advancing on the ocean below Riona.

The frame of the ships had streamline shape, they were made from wood with length that reached ten meter. It looked like they were created using ancient technology, before mankind invented galley ship.

"If this world is based on Greek mythology, it can be concluded that the technology and culture are around the level of Mycenaean civilization....."

The sky at the opposite direction of the group of ship was heading to—was pitch black.

The sky was filled with thick rain cloud. Riona fully spread out her swallow wings and rode on the wind. She charged forward toward the direction where rain cloud was hanging over. She steadily advanced through the strong wind.

"There is a person in that kind of place!?"

Under the rain cloud, there was a conspicuous island that was made from rock. At its center there was a mountain rising up precipitously.

At the mountain summit—a man at the prime of his life was standing imposingly.

He was wearing white garment that looked like toga. He had curly hair and beard that grew abundantly.

And then what was most conspicuous was the divine aura. White radiance that was filled with solemnity was emitted from that body. It was giving off majesty—that made one wanted to prostrate.

"There is no way he is human! Don't tell me that's.....!?"

The white light that the bearded man emitted. It suddenly swelled up and became a pillar of light, connecting the summit of the solitary island and the rain cloud.

The bearded man suddenly yelled sonorously with language that Riona didn't know.

" X X X X X X , X X X X X X X X X X ! X X X X X X , X X X X X X X ! "

Even the voice was divine. It was filled with magnificent profoundness.

Riona immediately sharpened her soul. She “sympathized” the unknown language with her sense of language to learn the language in short time—she used the 《translation spell》 .

"Indo-European language.....Greece's protolanguage? As I thought!"

Fortunately it was really similar with an ancient language that she knew. Thanks to that she became unable to understand the language at once. The bearded man was saying this.

"Know of mine.....Eos's annoyance, o sky. You child of Chronos who makes the thunder resound, the caller of cloud, the stormy one, is none other than me. Come oh north wind, hasten here from the land of extreme north. South wind carrying the storm, swiftly run to participate. West wind and east wind too, don't you dare to be late!"

Strong rain suddenly came down in big drops.

Snow also fell down in great intensity. The wind also increased further in strength. The body of Riona that was nothing more than a small swallow was easily blown away.

It was the beginning of a storm. There was no doubt that it was caused by the bearded man.

"The king of gods desire the caprice of the gales here for a momentary diversion from boredom!"

The bearded man—no. There was no doubt. Riona was convinced.

This man was nobody else but the highest existence in Greek mythology. The god of storm. The root of this god's name was derived from the word [dyeus] in Proto-Indo-European language which meant the sky.

"The king of gods Zeus.....!"

She couldn't oppose the storm with the wings of a swallow. She was hurled toward the distance helplessly.

Even so Riona heightened her mystical force with everything she had in order to recover her freedom of movement. Even if it was impossible with the body of a small swallow, her trump card would—

[Surface dweller. Let me stop you there.]

A voice resounded through the sky like thunder. It was the voice of a girl, and yet it was a voice that was terribly awe-inspiring. The next moment,

Riona's consciousness easily blacked out.....

.

Drip. Drip. Feeling raindrops on her cheek, Riona woke up.

Her transformation into swallow was dispelled and she was lying face down on the concrete ground in human form. She immediately got up. In front of her was the sea. This place was the harbor.

"This is Kobe Harbor——"

An [island] was floating on the sea slightly ahead. It was the artificial island of Kobe City, Port Island.

There was also a vortex of light that looked like a nebula there. It was the space distortion that she entered just now. She checked the wristwatch on her left wrist. Not thirty minutes had passed since she broke into the other world.

"To think that I would encounter that god of all things....."

Riona shuddered the moment she muttered that. It was because she felt a mighty aura.

The palm tree that was planted on the seashore—an owl was perched on its treetop.

Although it was dark due to the rain cloud hanging over the sky, it wasn't even three o'clock in the afternoon yet. The time was too early for a nocturnal bird of prey to be active.

Furthermore, this owl spoke human language.

"You were ill-mannered, surface dweller. Trespassing into our 《sanctuary》 like that without any permission."

A girl's voice. The voice was the same with the voice she heard just a moment before she lost consciousness at "the other side".

A hunch welled up. There was no doubt that this owl and the god of storm just now—were the same kind. In other words—god.

Riona swallowed her saliva. But, she resolved herself and replied.

"Then if I can obtain permission.....it would be fine for me to visit there?"

"It would be a pointless journey anyway. Let it go. After all it's the fate of that sanctuary to meet destruction eventually..... There isn't any need to plunge into the maelstrom by your own will."

The owl spoke a sinister prediction with a girl's voice.

"And then, that destruction.....will reach until this surface of yours too. It will become the key that cause an unprecedented disaster. See, just like this."

Struck on the cheek by a raindrop, Riona got taken aback and looked up.

The raining that was starting to come finally strengthened in intensity, showering the ground wetly.

Strong wind was also blowing. Thunder was also reverberating. Heavy rain, strong wind, and thunder suddenly danced rampantly.

The storm arrived.

The sea surface of Osaka Bay before her eyes was shaken by furious waves. It was a great storm.

Riona recalled even while getting soaked wet. The same time was occurring in the world of mythology!

"This storm, is it the same—with the storm caused by Zeus at the other side!?"

"You are sharp, girl of the surface."

The owl generously confirmed it.

"Indeed. The spirits of wind and rain that the great god, the king of sky called.....those spirits also arrived to this side crossing over time and space. But you can feel relieved. This is nothing more than a god's playfulness, not anger. It won't continue for long.Not yet right now."

The owl that gave a sinister prediction stared fixedly at her.

Just with that Riona's whole body became cold. No, not just cold, her body from her waist below was turning into stone!

Not just her body, but even the fabric of her clothes and her leather shoes!

"Wha, what are you doing.....?"

"Oo? Pardon me, girl. It looks like your body is tormented without me noticing. The power of my eyes become stronger in this form, it can't be helped."

The petrification attacking Riona moved from her waist to above, the area affected was spreading further.

Right now she was turning into cold stone until right below her neck. At this rate she would only end up into a stone statue. When Riona was about to resolve herself,

"You two, wait a second."

A third party suddenly cut in between the owl and Riona.

It was a youth who was still young, who appeared to be a university student. He covered Riona who almost turned into stone behind him and stared straight at the owl.

"I'm surprised seeing a talking owl. But no matter what is the situation, I cannot just overlook anyone doing terrible thing to a girl."

The young man's hair was dyed with bright color. He seemed to be good mannered, his speech and attitude were also friendly. In other words he was gaudy. However, he had handsome and well-ordered look that made such word unsuited for him. The way he talked also contained refinement.

The young man gently appealed at the owl that apparently was god.

"I am Rokuhara Ren. If you don't mind, how about you have a bit of talk with me."

"Why is that, young man of the surface?"

"Perhaps we can become friend by doing that."

What a stupid suggestion..... The instant she felt that exasperation, Riona's consciousness was fading.

Although she somehow endured it, the right shoulder of the young man looked hazy. As though something spiritual was haunting that spot. Perhaps it was a hallucination from her almost turning into stone statue.

And then, the owl stared for a while at the happy-go-lucky young man before—

".....fuh"

The owl let out a snigger and flew away with the flaps of its wings.

It was flying up toward the stormy sky without even minding the heavy wind and rain at the slightest.

Right after that, Riona's petrification was also dispelled. Her body and clothes that were becoming stone returned to normal. She was overlooked. And yet,

"Ooii! Keep me company for a bit more!"

The young man chased after the owl and ran until right beside the sea that was still stormy.

But, a large raging wave descended at that instant.

"UWAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!?"

The young man was dragged and swallowed into the sea by the backwash of the wave. Riona definitely saw that happened.

.

3

A morning with clear weather—. The stormy night had passed.

A news was broadcasted from the street screen at Sannomiya in Kobe City.

".....The space disaster warning that was official announced within Kobe City still hadn't been retracted—"

"The damage in Kansai region due to the localized heavy rain last night—has already reached 172 casualty in death....."

"The direction for evacuation is still continuing in the affected area....."

"Currently within Hyogo Prefecture—there are villages in isolated condition....."

Everywhere throughout the city was wet, objects that were blown away by the storm were also scattered everywhere.

Leaves, branches, paper, signboard, etc. Furthermore there were also roadside trees that were uprooted or cars that got overturned.

Riona walked in the city alone while frowning. She looked sour.

"I wonder what happened to the incomprehensible busybody yesterday.....?"

Riona checked her smartphone and shrugged.

"There are two cases of male around the age of twenty died from drowning. One of them might be that meddler....."

Bluntly speaking, that young man was idiot and lacking in tension.

However, it was also the truth that she narrowly escaped death thanks to him. And above all else, danger shouldn't reach him if he didn't think of trying to save Riona—.

The awareness of that and the feeling of guilt made Riona to get into bad mood.

"Instruction to evacuate had been announced in that area, so there should not be any civilian there, and yet!"

Was that person a seriously reckless onlooker?

Riona grumbled while passing under a large shrine archway. There was a large shrine along with a forest in walking distance from the downtown Sannomiya.

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"This is—everything that I witnessed at the other side, your excellency."

"Ri, right. It's great that you returned safely from there. Though my condition is just as you can see."

"I heard that your excellency's bone is fractured. That's great. If it's only an injury of that degree then your excellency can still force yourself. Let us do our best together with the resolve of working until we turn into dust♪"

"N, no. But the doctor recommended me to be hospitalized urgently-"

Riona was sitting in seiza posture inside a spacious Japanese-style room that was the shrine office.

In front of her was the flustered prefectural governor sitting cross-legged. His head and right arm were bandaged. Especially his arm was in a sling.

There were more than ten photos between them. The photos described the divine god of storm, the ancient ships, the flying away owl, etc. The data was prepared using spirit photography spell—it transcribed a frame of what the caster witnessed or their memory into photo film or the like.

By the way, at slight distance away from Riona and the governor,

Riona's coworker, the members of the Institute of Divinities were talking. Some were Shinto priest or shrine maiden wearing white kimono and hakama, while some others were people wearing business suit or priest garb. Everyone were looking at the same photos.

"The god that was witnessed over there by the young head of Toba main family....."

"As expected, all his features matched with "Zeus"."

"Is there no other space distortion that connected with Greek Mythology somewhere other than in Kobe.....?"

The governor frowned from hearing the conversation of the coworkers.

"I think I heard the name Zeus mentioned there....."

"I think, that it's unmistakably the same Zeus that your excellency is thinking. It's that well-known person in Greek mythology and in the freebie sticker of that chocolate snack."

".....Hou"

"And then, the space distortion within Kobe is still going strong. It's being connected with the world where "the most famous god of storm in the world Zeus" is residing so—each time he run wild, it's also possible that a large storm like yesterday will arrive."

"....."

"By the way Zeus's big brother is the sea god who caused tsunami and earthquake Poseidon. They are brothers who are like the natural enemy of the disaster response team. Now that we have confirmed the little brother's presence, we should also consider where his big brother might be....."

"Rather that's over-thinking it. Don't you think that consideration is a bit pessimistic?"

"I'm suggesting this as a councilor. I and your excellency the governor should infiltrate into the world of mythology once more and investigate inside. We have to search for a way to erase the space distortion."

"I, I'm injured! Someone else should go at my place!"

"Then can you call someone at the class of a minister of defense? Someone with rank around disaster prevention section chief of a prefecture won't be fit to be my goshujin-sama."

"The, there is no way I can do something like that-!"

If it wasn't a person who shouldered a "status" that was like a destiny or some kind of great duty, it would be impossible for them to become Yatagarasu's master. That was the rule for—liberating Riona's power.

When the argument entered a stalemate, there was an incoming call into Riona's smartphone.

"......Yes. Eh? A new master has been secured? Association Campiones? Aah, that southern Europe's veteran.....a member of that association—a Japanese who returned from Europe!?"

That was a contact from the top brass of the Institution of Divinities.

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4

In the morning of fine weather after the stormy night cleared out.

Rokuhara Ren stared at Osaka Bay from Kobe Harbor while feeling at a loss.

"This is troubling. The road is closed as usual, and the train also doesn't operate. There is no way at all to cross to Port Island. I also don't know what happened to the girl yesterday....."

Ren was also wandering aimlessly around this area yesterday. He caught sight of [a girl who almost got turned into a stone by the power of an overly suspicious owl] by chance and so he helped her, but in the end he fell into stormy sea.

Even so he swam until the land with his own strength and returned back to a cheap hotel at the outskirts of Kobe City in a wet state like drowned rat.

His vitality and tenacity that let him survive like this made him feel amazed for himself.

"If it's like this, let's just put my hope that Julio's connection will come through."

In that case, he would need to make his regular call.

Since he started his part-time job at the [Southern Europe's secret society!] due to a strange fate, any smartphone type tool that he owned would meet the tragedy of getting submerged or destroyed. In that case it would be better to not have any from the start—with such thinking he stopped carrying any such tool on his body.

When it was necessary he would borrow it from someone.

However, there was nobody here except himself. It must be the effect of the evacuation order that was broadcasted in the vicinity of Port Island. That was why Ren talked to empty air.

"Stella. Stella. Can you lend me the smartphone Julio left to you?"

"Ren, stop calling me so familiarly like that."

From the ground in front of him—a girl's displeased voice echoed.

"The great disgrace from the embarrassing blunder that you committed in front of that owl woman—I saw it all. Good grief, there is a limit even in being an embarrassment. I don't want to be called by such man."

"Could it be that the owl yesterday was your acquaintance?"

"To speak in the words of the lowlife, it's an undesirable but inseparable relationship that we have. Please don't question it further. More importantly Ren, how about you jump into the sea there one more time if you want to waste your life? If you do that then I'll be liberated from this vulgar affair where I have to babysit you....."

Like always, there was only the voice of the girl he was talking to. Ren immediately apologized.

"It looks like I made you worried. Sorry, Stella."

".....I wonder how can you arrive at that conclusion from my words just now? Are you an idiot?"

"About that, you know. I felt your true feeling with my sixth sense, something like that. I hit the bull's eye right?"

"Do, don't decide that as you pleased-. Well, that's, even though you are a lowly servant that is like an animal, we have quite the destiny that is connecting us together, I'm not that reluctant to feel concerned for you....."

"And, about what I said just now. Can you lend me the smartphone?"

"Do you think I will take care of such tool that is stained with worldly desire with great care?"

"Of course. There's no way Stella will throw away something that I needed."

".....Sheesh. What a really troublesome man!"

A waterproofed smartphone suddenly appeared near Ren's foot.

No matter what she said, his partner was soft toward Rokuhara Ren. Ren picked up the smartphone with a grateful feeling and started up the communication app.

The face of his "boss" that was displayed on the LED screen was graceful as usual.

A black haired Latino handsome man who looked like a young noble. He was no one else than the commander-in-chief of the association Campiones.

"Yo Julio. How's it going with the free pass request?"

"No problem. I had exerted my influence on the Imperial Household Agency and the Institution of Divinities with the intermediation of the old house of Japan who has connection with my family, and everything went well as the result."

"Err, what did you say? The other one other than the Imperial Household Agency."

"It's the religious agency that secretly regulate the magic, divine matter, and religious ritual in Japan—but you won't get it even if I told you that. Just think of it as the magician guild in Japan."

"Roger. So there is also magician like Julio and others in Japan."

"You should know that Japan is one of the "center" of occult. And then fortunately the ace of the Institute of Divinities is already working on solving the situation. This ace is the descendant from the family name of Kamo—the lineage of the master of the great onmyouji Abe no Seimei. Through the negotiation I also succeeded in securing the girl as your guide."

"I have been thinking this from some time ago but, Julio is more knowledgeable about Japan's culture than me aren't you?"

"I guess. Most likely you don't know but, the girl is the avatar of the sacred bird Yatagarasu, she is also its reincarnation. To make it easier to understand, she is a "phoenix".

"It looks like she is a really amazing person huh..... By the way I also have something to report."

Ren suddenly changed the topic.

"I blundered a bit yesterday and Stella got angry. She won't show herself to me."

"Do something about it. Well, we're talking about her who is soft on you. When the times come she might lend you a hand as though nothing happened....."

"I wish you're right. Without Stella I'm just a useless person."

Ren took out a notebook. It was his favorite item that had been submerged together with him many times during these several months.

The papers already became starchy since a long time ago. But thanks to the water-resistant ink, the memo written inside could be read. The sentence [The gods who'll answer to some degree and their tendency!] was written in one of the pages. It was what he reported to Julio yesterday.

"Which remind me Julio. What kind of place the world this time is?"

"It's the ancient Greece like described by the poet Homerus.....the stage is his epic poem Illias and Odyssey. Ask the Japan's onmyouji to guide you until the city of Troy that is the center of it."

The call was over. The LED screen of the smartphone that turned dark was reflecting Ren's face.

His face had slender line and often described by woman as [Like a prince!].

Because a friend of his who was a beautician apprentice used him to practice bleaching and hair care, his hair color was really bright.

And then, he was an agent of the magic society Campiones that was based in southern Europe.

That was the title of Rokuhara Ren, the Japanese who was in the middle of studying abroad in Spain.

.

Two hours later, Ren visited the meeting place.

A familiar girl was waiting for him on the ground of a large shrine located in Sannomiya within Kobe City.

Although she was a high school girl wearing the blazer of a high school for high class young lady, she possessed dignity and strength—that would make other wanted to call her as [queen] instead.

"Aa. So you are the guide that Julio mentioned."

"Yo—you're!"

"So we meet again. I'm Rokuhara Ren. Please take care of me from now on."

It was the moment of reunion of the young expert of onmyoudo, Toba Riona and Rokuhara Ren.

.

5

Even though they were able to have destined reunion by the guidance of the strange string of fate,

Toba Riona frowned in a bad mood and spoke coldly.

"Then Rokuhara-san. There is something that we have to talk first."

"You can call me Ren. After all I'm calling you Riona."

"......Suddenly calling me without honorific like that, as expected from a magician who returned from Europe, you have been dyed by the style there."

Ren noticed Riona's misunderstanding and spoke smilingly.





"No, no, that's not it. Certainly I just came back from Spain, but I've been like this even before going there."

"You're saying you've been this casual with manner since the beginning?"

"Yep. Also, I completely cannot use something like magic."

".....Certainly Rokuhara-san completely give the impression of an amateur."

"I'm telling you it's fine to call me without honorific. Well, anyway it's just as Riona said, I'm really an amateur in any kind of thing related to magic. If I'm asked what's my specialty, I'm a bit faster at running away than normal people, that's all. I have confidence in my stamina and legs."

"I find it hard to understand why someone like that is sent into this dangerous mission."

"It's because "a certain person" takes a liking to me. But I made that person angry yesterday, so right now I might be a bit unqualified....."

".....Very well. I understand everything."

Riona suddenly smiled gracefully. Her hair with its gentle wave was also lustrous, giving off an elegance that made her looked like a high class young lady from somewhere. And yet, her eyes were giving off an aura like [a hawk hunting a mouse].....

"From the beginning I planned to forcefully bring the total amateur governor with me. Even if the new goshujin-sama is an incompetent happy-go-lucky like this, it's nothing to be worried about. If you're an envoy that is dispatched from an association at the level of Campiones, then you're qualified enough to become a master of this me."

"Say Riona. You mentioned master and goshujin-sama, what do you mean by that?"

"I will teach you later. To think that you're an amateur who doesn't even know that, it feels refreshing instead.....ah, that was me talking sarcastically."

"Hahahaha, you are someone who will call yourself as sarcastic eh, Riona."

"Besides, even I've been feeling respect for quite some time now toward the activity of your association."

This time Riona completely changed and talked with a serious tone.

"After all regarding the space distortions that appeared everywhere in the world in the recent years and.....the world of mythology that has existed earlier than that, it is the association Campiones that is researching them the most passionately. The information that your association published in the internet has been very useful for reference for us too this time."

"Ah. You mean the database with membership system that we are doing."

"Then Rokuhara-san. Let me get to the point, which world of mythology the space distortion that appeared here in Kobe is connected to?"

"Sanctuary Troia. Our Julio said that."

As soon as Ren answered, Riona nodded right away.

".....I read the report of your group. The world of mythology with three confirmed space distortions connected to it at present. If you pass through the space distortions that appeared at Italia's Sicily Island, Cyprus Island in Turkey, and the one in Indonesia, all of them will connect to the world of Trojan War——"

Riona seemed to be satisfied and made a completely fearless smile.

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Thus, Rokuhara Ren finally stepped into Kobe's Port Island.

At the north public park at the northern edge of this artificial island. In front of the vortex of light, the space distortion that was a gate to another world, he asked his companion in this journey.

"By the way Riona. This world of Troia, could it be that it's related to that Trojan Horse?"

"I will tell you about that too later, goshujin-sama. From now on, please absolutely follow my instruction without fail. Take care to not do anything unnecessary at all. Do you understand?"

Although she was calling him master, the way she spoke showed that she obviously didn't mean it at all.

Ren immediately answered smilingly at Riona who couldn't be dealt with by ordinary means.

"I cannot promise that. My strength is really meager, and I almost know nothing. But perhaps.....there'll be a time when my strength and judgment can be useful, don't you think so?"

"My, what a skillful goshujin-sama. I don't know that you can sleep-talking even while awake."

Rokuhara Ren and Toba Riona, through turns and twists, the two of them ended up into a hurriedly formed relationship of master and servant (?).

It was finally time to depart. Riona said.

"Now Rokuhara-san. Give the command to this me—the avatar of Yatagarasu. Give me the command to guide you until the center of Sanctuary Troia, with the spell of Kyu-Kyu Nyo Ritsu Ryo."

"Roger. Then, I'll leave the various matter regarding this to you Riona!"

"Leave it to me. Then—here we go."

Riona's eyes instantly let out blue radiance.

Ren was surprised by the mysteriousness of that light. Then his right wrist—was suddenly grasped by Riona.

Right after that, the two of them were enveloped by blue light and they flew. Toward the mass of light standing before them, into the space distortion that resembled a nebula!

"Waaah!?"

"It's flight magic. It's better to transform into bird because it's less tiring, but this time Rokuhara-san is also coming along, so I'm using this way."

Light. Light. Light. Ren's vision was occupied by the profusely dancing light that was like kaleidoscope.

They cut across this territory in one go—

"Ah, amazing. It's like we arrived at Mediterranean Sea!"

Ren was in admiration. Below there was the beautiful sea with marine blue color. The sky they were flying through right now was also wonderfully blue. It was the sky and sea of another world that were different from earth.

By the way, Riona who grabbed Ren's wrist just now—had vanished from view.

The girl became a lump of blue light that flew in high speed while carrying Ren.

[I can see land and—harbor over there. Let's go look.]

Riona's whispering voice entered his ear. They accelerated even faster. Riona's light was flying straight toward a certain direction. However, Ren wasn't tormented by the high altitude's wind pressure and coldness.

And then, a harbor city finally came into view.

There were several hundred houses which were built using material that seemed to be sun-dried brick there.

It was a coast city. Several dozen wooden ships were anchored at the harbor. The scale of the place wasn't suitable at all to be called a port from the view of modern Japan.

However there was only one sailing ship that was horribly big anchored near the city.

[It looks like a battle is going on.]

"Battle.....even so, it looks really one-sided."

At the ground below, people who seemed to be the residents were massacred one after another.

However, the side doing the killing wasn't human. But more than ten "human shaped monsters".

All of them had huge body with height around two and a half meter until three meter. They were heartily swinging around axe and club with that huge body—chopping down and flattening the people atrociously!

The fierce and cruel giants all had the head of a bull. Furthermore it was the head of fighting bull. Their face the face of ferocious and brutal wild beast. And then they weren't armor or helmet.

They were only wearing cloth around their waist, exposing burly naked figure and muscle—.

[A monster with bull head, minotaur. They are also monster of Greek mythology.]

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Ren and Riona who returned back into human landed on a house roof.

It was a single-storied house with simple shape. The material it was made with seemed to be sun-dried brick as expected. It seemed this material was used a lot at region with few wood or rock.

Slaughter was being carried out throughout the city by the bull headed giants.

The fierce minotaurs were scattered all over. They were hunting for their prey as they pleased, going around killing the humans of the city as though mowing weed.

They split open the skull of weak human with their heavy club using their stupidly powerful strength.

They tore open the stomach of human with brute force using an axe that didn't look sharp.

They literally kicked around two or three humans altogether with simple violent kick.

The minotaurs that numbered more than ten were all monstrously strong without exception, on top of that they also possessed the physical body that boasted the agility and flexibility of wild beast. They were brutally and wildly getting drunk with the bloodbath—.

Violence. Blood. Slaughter. Blood. Slaughter.

Ren looked down at the atrocious sight from above the roof and muttered.

"If this is in Japan, it's like a rampaging pack of bears appearing in a city that don't have gun....."

"Even so if human don't oppose them, the beasts that are hungering for blood will gradually getting even more elated."

Riona also muttered. Yes. The humans below weren't just staying idle in any way.

There were also men who were desperately risking their life to stand against the minotaurs. They must be the men of the city. Those men who seemed to be fisherman and farmer looked tanned and burly.

Their clothing was just simple civilian clothes, but everyone was carrying weapon or something that could be used as replacement.

Sword, spear, bow and arrow, hoe, spade, harpoon, etc—. However, although they could injure the minotaurs with those, they weren't really able to go as far as bringing them down.

The difference in strength was too great. Exactly like comparing an angry bear with a weak human.

"Uh. Those guys, what in the world they're doing?"

"It was said that even the minotaur that was imprisoned in the labyrinth by King Minos.....was given young man and young girl as food after all....."

There was a minotaur that slaughtered powerless woman and children.

It seemed it was attracted by the softness of the prey it brought down. It quickly bit into the limbs, tore off the flesh, and gnawed on the bone. And then it swallowed what it put inside its mouth—

Looking closer, the number of bull headed giant doing similar thing wasn't few.

Riona looked around the city that was turned into a site of tragedy—and said with a sour look.

".....And what will you do, goshujin-sama? If you have the intention to avoid danger, then we should depart soon from here."

".....You're right. Then, we should both act on our own discretion from here."

Ren said so to the girl whose role was to guard and guide him.

"Riona. You——want to do something, that's why you came down here right? Because if that's not the case you can just pass through above this city without stopping after all."

"Rokuhara-san, you are unexpectedly sharp."

"Could it be, that you want to save them?"

"We're more or less fellow human after all. Also, how much Rokuhara-san will get disturbed by the bloody frontline—I was thinking to check it out. This is a quick way to confirm just how big your guts is."

Riona informed indifferently.

"Knowing that will make it easier to plan in the future after all."

"Ah. So that's your intention."

When Ren smiled wryly, a wild breathing "Fuuuuh!" entered their ear. A single minotaur was climbing onto the rooftop they were standing at!]

Riona immediately pulled out the handgun from under her skirt.

"Raiten Taisou, bring forth righteousness!"

Gang an-! Words of power and formula were inserted into the two bullets and Riona exploded the giant body of the minotaur almost instantly.

"Rokuhara-san, please don't move from this place and wait for my return. I'll take care of the rampaging bulls all at——Rokuhara-san?"

Riona made a bombastic talk. However, Ren didn't listen to her until the end.

Actually he had jumped down from the roof the instant he felt the presence of the minotaur.

"Sorry, sorry. I know that I don't need to worry for Riona, so I unconsciously jumped."

Ren called out to his brilliantly skilled companion on the rooftop from the ground.

"I'll only become a burden here, so I'll just wander around randomly. Just do a good job taking care the monsters!"

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".....Manifest."

The instant she became alone, Riona chanted a simple word of power.

She began transforming. Not into something like a small swallow, this time she turned into a golden phoenix—.

She spread her wings widely and danced up toward the sky once more.

The span of her wings surpassed twenty meter. Her feathers brightly shined golden, containing the divinity that made her ought to be called as golden feathered bird. Her whole body was slender with a silhouette that was similar to a peacock. Her long-slitted eyes were tinged with seductiveness that couldn't be matched by any human woman no matter how much of a beauty they were.....

She had three legs. That was exactly the form of the sacred bird Yatagarasu.

It was a form that was nearer to god rather than human, the “true nature” of Toba Riona.

The sky of Sanctuary Troia in the territory of Greek mythology was refreshingly blue, in exchange the ground was a scene of massacre.

Riona transformed into Yatagarasu and chanted the words of power of the holy fire.

"Shinka Seimei——"

Honestly speaking, it would be faster to burn the minotaurs along with the city and harbor into ash.

However, even for an envoy of god that was just too tyrannical. In that case.





"This lowly self wish to reverently state in the presence of Sume-Mikami.....by the means of malediction, the blazing fire and this self beg thee to exorcist, beg thee to purify——"

Riona leisurely glided at the sky with the figure of golden feathered bird while chanting further.

Along with the progressing chant——"the judgment of heaven" descended to the ground. Particles of fire were smoothly falling down from the golden wings that Riona spread wide open.

The sea and port city, the people of the city, their corpses, and then the bull headed monsters were showered by the fire sparks.

When the flame sparks fell on top of something, they would ephemerally vanish like powdered snow. However, only the minotaurs——instantly burst into flame.

The huge body of the bull headed and human bodied creature became fire pillar and several spots throughout the city started burning!

"Receive the fire bird's——divine punishment!"

Riona danced in the sky as the avatar of Yatagarasu while solemnly announcing.

According to Jingi-Shiki and Engi-Shiki, Yatagarasu was the representation of sun. Which meant it was the spirit of sun. It was an existence that freely manipulated flame and light.

Burning only the "target" that Riona designated was nothing more than a child play for her.

And then, the flame sparks——also descended on the sailing ship anchored at the coast.

The minotaurs should be coming until this port city by boarding that ship. Just like pirate. And then the sailing ship naturally also immediately burned.

"With this the monsters are annihilated.....or not, it seems."

Riona cruelly laughed in the form of Yatagarasu.

Because a minotaur ran outside from inside the flame of the blazing sailing ship.

Furthermore, this minotaur used its own strength—to erase the flame of heaven. It shook off the blazing flame by sprinting in full speed like a fighting bull!

"mmmWoouoooooooooh!"

It roared like a fighting bull. Right after that, the minotaur that came out from the ship turned gigantic.

At first it had a large body that was higher than three meter. And then it suddenly bloated up into a gigantic body that was ten times bigger.

"My. Its size become like in Ultraman or kaiju movie!"

Even without releasing her seal, Riona was an exceedingly preeminent sorcerer.

However, as expected the permission of the master was necessary for her to use magic in the level of most esoteric like transforming into Yatagarasu for example.

Riona was burning with fighting spirit in celebration of her freedom after so long.

The beak of the sacred bird Yatagarasu slightly opened. It was an act of smiling in her bird form.

"I wonder if that giant bull-san is a general that is dispatched from Crete Island after all? In order to attack and destroy the city of Troia——"

"mmmWoouoooooooooh!"

The giant minotaur howled at Yatagarasu that was elegantly smiling in the sky.

The ground shook just from that. The bricks that were forming the port city were crumbling apart in pieces. This roar shook the air and caused a localized quake. Furthermore.

Above Riona=Yatagarasu, a heavy pressure weighed her down.

Even though she was leisurely gliding in the sky until now, her wings suddenly became heavy.

Fall. Fall. Her altitude was rapidly falling. At this rate she would crash on the ground!

"How dare you act impudent!"

Riona who transformed into Yatagarasu heightened the mystical power inside her body.

It was in order to clear away the sorcery that was applied on her. Just like how Yatagarasu controlled fire, the giant minotaur must also be controlling spirit of earth. The enemy was launching curse to the sacred bird flying in the sky.

‘Thy should fall toward our great mother the earth’, it chanted—.

"mmmWoooooooooooooooooh!"

"Secret word of fire and sun, purify and cleanse the myriad of sinful impurity!"

The words of power of earth, and the words of power of fire.

It was the contest of strength between the minotaur general and the bird of the sun Yatagarasu.

Riona desperately opposed the mystical force trying to make her fall to the ground. She would overcome this and launched a counterattack without

fail—was her intention. However.

"Rokuhara-san.....?"

She found the figure of her master using her “bird’s eye” that overlooked the ground from high in the sky.

Her master for convenience Rokuhara Ren had arrived at the wharf of the harbor without her noticing.

"Of all place to be, he is wandering into the most dangerous place!"

Unfortunately, Riona’s anger didn’t reach him.

.

"mmmWoooooooooooooooooh!"

The giant minotaur was howling. In respond to that, the ground was trembling. It was like an earthquake. The surviving people of the port city were all lying down on the ground and prayed.

However, Rokuhara Ren was a Japanese person who was used to earthquake.

"This earthquake is around 3 Richter I think....."

He muttered while running until the wharf, in order to get near the giant minotaur.

The bull headed monster amazingly reached the height of around 30 meter. It was standing imposingly on a shoal while roaring toward the large golden bird flying in the sky.

" mmmWoooooooooooooooooh!
mmmWoooooooooooooooooh! mmmWoooooooooooooooooh!"

"Stella. Stella. It’ll be a great help if you’ll stop sulking anytime now."

There was no one nearby. Ren called out toward an empty air.

"I really—need your help."

"Hmph. I'm amazed that you can say such laudable things even after you were trying to curry favor at that strange bird girl. Well, certainly it's wise to rely on this me rather than that kind of witch though."

It seemed that her sense of rivalry was provoked with the entrance of Toba Riona.

Unexpectedly easily—his partner showed herself.

A girl sprang out from the ground in front of him like foam. She must be twelve, or thirteen years old. Although she had childish features, she had a beautiful face that was worthy to be called peerless or country-toppling. She was unmistakably Rokuhara Ren's partner, Stella.

However—

Her height was around 30 cm. It was a size that was like a doll.

"Then Stella. I'm counting on you for the you-know-what again."

"Someone with the social standing of lowborn like you shouldn't casually tell me what to do—"

Stella was only dressed in white fabric wrapped around her body. Her appearance was similar with goddess statue in art museum. Her proportion that was swelling out in various spots could be easily seen. It could be said that she was really developed despite her young look.

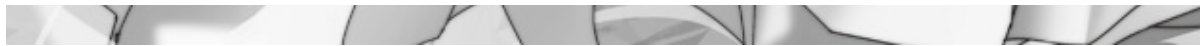
Ren lifted up that small, lovely body and placed her on his right shoulder.

Then the white belt that was wrapped around her waist—started shining in rose color.

"Hurry up Ren. Chant the true name.....of the princess that you humans
called the 《Star of the Sea》 . And then, let the miracle be brought to the
world."

"Roger. Then....."





Ren put his breathing in order with a deep breath and then he suddenly chanted.

"Goddess Aphrodite. Use your [friendship circle] for my sake. In order to save me, and that girl, and the people of this town."

"It's not friendship circle but the 《Girdle of Friendship and Love》, one of the noble garments of a goddess!"

Stella's whole body emitted rose colored radiance even while she was hurling abuse.

It was the proof that the power of god—an authority was activated. Stella angrily complained.

"How dare you called the divine tool of Aphrodite with that kind of nickname, you're really a shallow man. To think that I can't use my authority without the permission of this kind of dunce—!"

The "goddess of beauty and love" in Greek mythology, Aphrodite.

Her name in English language, Venus was also called as [Maris Stella]. Ren was exposed to the anger of the beautiful goddess while casually laughing.

"I think friendship circle is better though. After all it's an item to call your friend."

"Geez-. —Come here god of sun Apollo, o arrow shooting god. Swiftly hasten here if you haven't forgotten your friendship with the goddess of love, and bestow me with a momentary assistance!"

The sun was shining brilliantly in the sky. That brilliance was suddenly strengthened intensely. Before anyone noticed, a tall handsome man was standing beside Ren and Stella.

Dazzling golden hair, sidelong glance that was tinged with seductiveness, mischievously smiling lips.

Everything was beautiful and bewitching. Furthermore, his body was the very definition of muscular. He was carrying a silver long bow in one hand, and an arrow with golden arrowhead nocked there—

"O queen of Cyprus, the princess born from the foam. I visited in respond to your invitation but.....let me take care of the boorish nuisance first."

The beautiful sun of god Apollo fired.

The golden arrow that was fired from the silver bow flew lightly.

It splendidly stabbed the chest of the giant minotaur standing imposingly slightly ahead. The bull headed monster shined with golden flash and became annihilated—. It was the moment of victory for Ren and others.

In the sky, the golden sacred bird=Toba Riona was starting to glide in the air once more.

The mystical force binding her was also gone and she was freed.

The golden bird gracefully glided through the sky—.

However, the sacred bird's eyes were looking down on the ground with great suspicion.

Chapter 2 – Trojan War

1

"O Lady Aphrodite who govern over beauty and love. It has been a long time."

The sun god Apollo greeted with a dazzling smile.

"It seems that you left from this sanctuary some time ago but.....has you finished with your business outside?"

"It's nothing so exaggerated to be called a business. I was simply tired of war that has nothing but the smell of sweat and blood, so I went to take a breath of air on the surface."

The minimum girl Stella=goddess Aphrodite who answered from Ren's right shoulder.

She was wearing a clear face that looked conceited. Her high-handed way of speaking was the same even when talking with an equal god. Apollo was staring at his brethren who was like that grinningly.

"Hmm. So your body was also shrinking greatly while you were relaxing?"

"The, there was circumstance. Know that there is no need for further questioning!"

"On top of that, you even found a new lover too."

"Do—don't hold any misunderstanding! Ren here is just a lowly commoner and an idiot, this man is nothing but an ordinary person with low birth! He doesn't even have the slightest qualification to become a goddess's lover!"

Stella was flustered, in contrast Apollo was grinning.

His lips and his long-slitted pupils contained a twisted quality somewhere within them. He was giving off a strong atmosphere of a ruffian who couldn't be dealt with by normal means.

"Fufufufu. Let's leave it at that for now. Anyway, with this I have fulfilled my obligation to my sworn friend Aphrodite. I'll take my——"

"Ah. Can you wait a second? Right now we're going to begin a dangerous journey."

Ren immediately cut in.

"If possible, it will be great if you can kindly lend us something useful for the travel in deference to Stella."

"......Hou"

For the first time since he arrived here, Apollo stared at Ren.

Until now he must be reflected in Apollo's eyes as nothing more than [the stand where goddess Aphrodite was placed on]. But he shouldn't harbor any interest toward the human called Ren himself.

However right now the sun god Apollo finally perceive Ren as [a person]——.

"Human. You interrupt the conversation of the gods with your standing that is merely an ordinary person, and you even call a goddess with a pet name. On top of that you even pester the shining one, Apollo for a farewell gift....."

"Because, just this much isn't a big deal at all for you right?"

There was a trick for when borrowing or pestering someone for something.

It was by changing the way one made the request depending on the other party's personality, wealth, and the situation. It had to be decided in a single round using ad-lib. From the multiple choices of [asking sincerely][bowing his head][kowtow] etc, Ren chose [beg a bit shamelessly].

He got the feeling that this choice would be good after seeing Apollo's interaction with Stella.

Sure enough Apollo smiled broad-heartedly like a "lavish oil magnate from Middle East".

"Well, certainly that's true. Besides it seems that—the beautiful goddess's original strength is in a sealed state. There is nothing better if she has a way to protect herself I guess."

"Su, such thing, there's no way that's true-!"

Stella was flustered. She was still a great goddess after a fashion.

And yet with her personality she was unable to keep a secret. Apollo smiled faintly.

"Very well. I'll lend my help for the safety of you and the goddess. Thinking back, Princess Aphrodite is someone who always received tribute from all men in the heaven."

"Looks like it. Stella also boasted that to me before."

"Ren!"

"Hahahaha. This time allow this Apollo to present my arrow of sun—three of them."

Apollo presented three arrows. The arrowhead was made from gold.

The moment Ren received them, all the arrows—were absorbed into his hand. As expected from the arrows of the world of god, they were miraculous.

"Then, this time it's the real parting. Let's meet again, o goddess who was born from the foam."

The sun god Apollo's gallant figure vanished with *shuh* sound this time for real.

This whole scene was being watched by Toba Riona who had returned to her human body with gaze of suspicion.....

.

"The Rokuhara-san isn't a complete incompetent."

Riona muttered with her expression frowning in a bad mood.

"You possess the trump card that is the goddess Aphrodite and her divine tool aren't you?"

"More accurately speaking, [she became one with my body], I think? When I was travelling Spain, I met with Stella who coincidentally was coming to our world. At that time she almost got kidnapped."

"A goddess that is one of the twelve gods of Olympus, kidnapped?"

"The one trying to kidnap Stella was also a god after all."

Ren easily talked about the happening of a few months ago.

Right after the group of minotaur was destroyed, the two of them sat down and had a meeting at the wharf that was turned to a battlefield.

"That god's aim was the [belt]. Isn't that right, Stella?"

"Yes. When speaking about the belt of this me, the goddess of beauty and love Aphrodite, it's a divine tool to control love and friendship as you wish. Even the gods cannot resist against its miraculous effect..... Do you know it, bird girl?"

Stella appeared right beside Ren.

While her height was only around 30 cm, she spoke to Riona haughtily.

"In the past the wife of the king of gods Zeus, the white-armed goddess Hera once borrowed my belt to seduce her husband. A divine tool that powerful and my body—hid inside the body of Ren who happened to be present at that timing, and after the danger passed....."

"She became unable to separate herself from my body. Hahahaha"

"So your relationship became like the gutsy frog and the T-shirt....."
(TN: Reference to the manga Dokonjo Gaeru/The Gutsy Frog)

Riona sighed 'haa'.

In contrast Stella was glaring angrily at Ren.

"This isn't a laughing matter, Ren. I cannot even return to the world of god with this kind of embarrassing body!"

"Then it can't be helped. You can stay at my side forever until I die."

"Wha!? A mere commoner wish to receive the goddess of love and beauty as a wife—as a spouse? How impudent. O, of course, with my current state where I'm unable to separate from you even from here on, the day where I'm considering that kind of future course might come but, it's still not—"

"Ah, no. It doesn't have that deep of a meaning. In the first place you're a married woman already."

"What are you saying I wonder? Fuu, I'm a bit tired today. Adieu Ren, bird girl."

Stella suddenly played stupid and vanished.

Ren was completely an amateur regarding magic and mythology. Even so he remembered hearing that the goddess Aphrodite had a husband.

When this topic came up, Stella would immediately hide. Ren shrugged.

"Normally I'll be living the life of poor exchange student in Spain. But thanks to Stella I was able to get employed into my current part-time job in the magician company—I mean association Campiones."

"About that, Rokuhara-san."

Riona glared sharply.

"I understand that you have a trump card that is Aphrodite. But, why are an amateur like you is send to act solo like this? Surely it will be better if there is one more magician you're acquainted with accompanying you."

"That's why, Julio contacted you for that."

".....I think it'll be better if Campiones send their own member though....."

"About that. Our boss Julio has this doctrine of elect few elites, so we're always having shortage of manpower. It looks like they don't have any leeway to send someone to the other side of the planet to be my advisor."

".....So it's like that just as I thought."

"By the way Riona. It feels like you're in a bad mood since just now aren't you?"

"Right now I'm feeling exactly like what Rokuhara-san said. I'm vaguely feeling of [getting forced to babysit an agent who is really problematic in his knowledge and judgment despite having an absurd trump card]—I'm feeling unbearably irritated at my carelessness that got me shrewdly trapped in this unpleasant position....."

Riona muttered with a vexation that came from the bottom of her heart.

"Even though normally it's me who is toying around with other people—in the position like a queen!"

"Hahahaha. You too also have a really screwed personality aren't you. That side of yours is the same like Julio. It makes me feel affinity with you."

Take care of me from here on."

Ren laughed casually.

"Let's stop the destruction of this Troia world together."

"Eh?"

Riona who was always overflowing with ardor looked unusually dumbfounded. Ren said.

"You know. Yesterday, the strange owl said it right? This world is destined to be destroyed someday, and that destruction will be felt until earth, becoming a key that cause an unprecedented calamity—she said."

"Come to think of it, she said that....."

Ren took a step forward and peered into Riona's beautiful face from close up.

"In that case, if we can stop the destruction of this world—Sanctuary Troia, calamity won't descend on our world. That's right isn't it?"

.

2

^{Muse}
"O goddess of poetry, sing my rage—the rage of Achilles the son of Peleus."

The hero Achilles murmured with a shaking voice.

He stood on the bow of a ship sailing on the sea and glaring at the land waiting at the front.

That manly body was clad in bronze armor and helm, with a long sword that was also made from bronze hanging from his waist. He was fully armed. And then, his good look was marred with rage and hatred.

"The rage from losing my one and only friend Patroclus, the rage toward the foe who put the tip of his spear into my friend, and also the rage toward the people of Troia who continue their futile resistance that don't know when to give up against the attack of us the force of Greece——"

A few days ago, his best friend died in battle.

The allied forces of Greece that Achilles belonged to——their target was the "capital of gold" Troia. It happened when they attacked that impregnable fortress city.

His friend entered a duel with the supreme commander of the hateful Troia force. It was his best friend that ran out of luck in that duel.

"Aa, Patroclus, Patroclus, my other half. My trusted friend who cannot even be compared with wife or little brother. I cannot forget the days when I embraced you each night.....!"

It was an existence that surpassed mere friend and already equaled a lover or spouse.

The agony of that loss caused Achilles to be half-crazed and fiercely enraged him.

"Listen, my elite soldiers. I will give you all everything of the city waiting before our eyes. Kill by the dozens until you tire of blood and let loose the fire. Steal the riches and foods, violate the women. You will be forgiven under the name of I——Achilles the son of the goddess Thetis. Let us hold the memorial service for my friend Patroclus.....!"

He wasn't the average warrior. He was the prince of Phthia country and a hero that descended from god.

The sail received the sea breeze and the warship plowed forward powerfully. The army corps of Myrmidons people that were elite soldiers were riding on the ship, waiting for the beginning of the slaughter.

They were the descendants of the people who were ants that were reborn into human by Zeus's divine will in the past.

They boasted solidarity of steel just like a swarm of ant. They would attack the enemy like a group of worker ants that set out for a hunt and fought to the end without fearing even death—.

"Let's warm up before taking down the city of Troia. Fight together with me!"

.

3

"If we're going to change the synopsis of a myth"

Riona suddenly spoke.

"Then I'll have to teach Rokuhara-san about the Trojan War."

"Please.By the way Riona. It's about time that you call me Ren—"

"I won't. Then goshujin-sama, I will explain the summary to you."

Even though she was calling him goshujin-sama, there wasn't the slightest respect in her tone.

They met their first night since coming to Sanctuary Troia. They were in a location that wasn't too far away from the port city that became a battlefield in the noon.

They were above a hill—where a splendidly large olive tree grew.

They intended to camp under the tree's shadow. Also, Stella's figure had vanished since a long time ago.

"Trojan War is—the battle between the allied force of various countries in Greece and the city-state Troia."

Riona's lecture started. Ren began to take memo.

He had fallen into water many times during these few months, so the paper of his notebook was already stiff since a long time ago. But thanks to the water resistant ink, the memo that he had written until now could be read somehow.

"This war was a great war that continued for ten years. But, most of it was repetition of small skirmishes. The Greek army attacked the surrounding of Troia like pirate, while the Troia army was on the defensive. But at the final stage, the hard effort of the hero Achilles brought about a rapid development."

"That's a name I've heard before."

"It must be from the phrase Achilles's Heel. Actually Achilles was boycotting from going to battle because he felt the reward wasn't enough. But his best friend that departed to the front as his substitute died in battle and Achilles was enraged. From there he let his anger controlled him and rampaged. He brought the war situation to the brink of the Greek's victory by himself."

"That's amazing. Isn't he completely the leading character?"

"But, Troia's side also counterattacked desperately. In the end the battle continued until Greece's side carried out the surprise attack using the Trojan Horse plan.

"Trojan——"

"It's not the name of computer virus. It's the trap that became the origin of that name. Greece's allied force pretended to retreat and left behind a giant wooden horse at the city of Troia. And, the people of Troia let down their guard thinking that peace has returned....."

"I remember. The soldiers hiding inside the wooden horse attacked the city."

"Yes. Like that Troia fell. But the inhumanity that was repeated by the humans during the war enraged the gods and they handed down a divine punishment. They caused tsunami and storm, and the city of Troia and the ships of the Greek army—were sunk into the sea."

"So this world—Sanctuary Troia will be destroyed like that.Then, if we can protect Troia to the end, then we should be able to prevent the destruction."

"The problem is that the gods are also participating in this war."

Riona spoke anxiously at the nodding Ren.

"The goddess Athena and Hera, and the sea god Poseidon are siding with Greek's side. They sometimes would support Greek army from the shadow, and sometimes they would personally stand on the battlefield—"

"The gods.....intentionally interfered into war between humans?"

"On the other hand the sun god Apollo and the war god Ares, and then the goddess of Love Aphrodite are the ally of Troia's side."

"By Aphrodite—you mean Stella?"

.

The bonfire was burning with crackling sound.

The night at the world of myth. Stars were twinkling above Ren and Riona's head.

The shine of the stars were obviously brighter than at earth. They could grasp the constellation with more clarity. The perfectly clear sky and the power coiling around the constellation—perhaps it was because this was a world where the strength of Greek Mythology was stronger.

"At noon, Apollo said it"

Riona nibbled at a biscuit which was her dinner while speaking.

It seemed she brought it inside the small shoulder bag that she carried from earth.

"Stella's power—authority as god is limited, is that true?"

"It seems that actually he can spread around the power of love and make the people throughout the world into her captive. But, right now the best she can do is only "requesting" the gods that are her old friend to come and receiving parting gift from them. That's why I call that power as Friendship Circle."

Guuuuu. Ren's stomach cried because of hunger.

Riona undoubtedly heard it. And yet she elegantly chuckled and gracefully brought the biscuit into her mouth.

The girl was also carrying "portable food with high nutritional value" like candy or chocolate.....

"Friendship Circle. It's a bit too common but easy to understand."

"It will also fail a lot if you want to resummon a god that has been summoned once, and it's also not a sure thing that they will give something, so the timing to use it is difficult."

"Rather than difficult, isn't it an ability that cannot really be relied on?"

Riona spoke bluntly.

"Even if you call for a god it will depend on them whether to come or not. And even if they come, it also depend on them whether to give something useful or not..... I get the impression that it's not any different with the gacha of social game that leaves matter to chance."

"As expected you're sharp. Actually it's just as you say but—say Riona."

"What is it? How about we go to sleep soon tonight?"

Riona spoke like a capable secretary who grasped even the private aspect.

"Of course we will sleep separately. If you approach to do something strange to me, then let me declare first that I'll have to use the toy for the use of self-defense in that case."

"I wish you won't say something like that while showing your gun.....
More importantly"

Ren begged while feeling great hunger.

"It will be great if you can share your food with me. Unfortunately I don't happen to bring anything."

"Fufufufu"

"It's also really lovely how you are only ignoring me with a laugh but, if you will be so kind to awaken the spirit of helping each other here, then I will be so thankful I'll even kowtow to you."

"Just doing kowtow won't be enough at all."

Riona chuckled with a mean look.

"Can you turn around three times and bark 'Woof' for me, goshujin-sama?"

"That's an easy task. Watch."

Both of them were sitting before a bonfire to warm themselves but,

Ren stood up, then he twirled on the spot three times like a figure skating athlete before stopping still on the spot. He stood on one foot and spun using his toes as the fulcrum. It was a ballet movement that he imitated from a show he saw in the past.

"Woof——! How is that, my queen?"

".....I've been thinking it since the battle at noon but, Rokuhara-san is really agile aren't you?"

Riona's shapely beautiful face changed into a sour look and she said that.

"The movement just now is also pointlessly elegant."

"I'm thankful for your words of praise. Even though I look like this, I'm someone with quite good reflexes and stamina."

"That's not a praise. The queen is displeased with the unpermitted movement arrangement. It's troubling that you cannot keep to the instruction for the show."

"Here, as you can see. Please share the food with me."

".....Rokuhara-san who is able to kowtow immediately without hesitation there might be actually a big shot."

"Thank you!"

It seemed the flowing smooth movement into kowtow had an effect.

Riona presented a chocolate bar half in exasperation and half in admiration.

Ren reverently received the chocolate. He was currently kneeling, so it really looked like the scene of the queen bestowing him with a reward.

"I think it's fine to not put anymore show after the kowtow though."

"No way. People sometimes will be pleased when I acted [like a prince] like this."

"Ah, certainly. The way Rokuhara-san talk is slightly refined, and your face too, well—I can believe that there are a lot of women who will be pleased with that atmosphere. Certainly it's [like a prince]."

"Thank you. I'm happy to hear that."

"But, your face isn't my preference. Also, because of your stupid act that is completely the opposite of handsome prince like in film, in the end the atmosphere you give off is only [like a prince]."

"Hahahaha. I really like that kind of foul mouth of yours you know?"

Ren immediately broke a part of the reward chocolate and threw it into his mouth.

Sweetness and bitterness spread on his tongue. The calorie intake after half a day was delicious as expected.

"Come to think of it, I remember when I went to a different world of myth, the sweet bun I brought became charcoal....."

Riona immediately answered Ren's casual murmur.

"It's a phenomenon that sometimes happen in a world of myth that have weak connection with earth. It's an adjustment that replace an item that originally doesn't exist in that world into another item so that no inconsistency is created."

"But it seems you can also use gun in this Troia."

"It's because this world's connection with earth is strong enough. But, in this world there is no way to replenish the bullet. When I checked the smartphone was also working but, there is no wireless LAN or power plug here, so as expected it cannot be relied on.Weapon, food, tool. The basic is to "procure on site" from now on. Regarding food, there is possibility that a struggle for it will happen, so it might be a bit difficult."

"What do you mean by that Riona?"

It was at that timing, a white heron swooped down from the sky.

As soon as it landed right in front of Riona, the elegant white silhouette—quickly changed into a crane origami. This seemed to be a shikigami too.

Riona made a crane shikigami before starting the bonfire and threw it to the sky.

It immediately transformed into a “living white heron”. It went to scout the surrounding geography and situation for the sake of Ren and Riona.

"Rokuhara-san. A report from the shikigami. It seems there was a battle at some distance from here. A different squad from the minotaurs just now—were rampaging there."

.

Riona used the previous flight magic and took Ren along toward the site of tragedy.

It was a fishing village at the coast. The full starry sky and the brightness of the half-moon were illuminating the ground. Thanks to that there was no problem even without preparing illumination like a torch or the like.

".....This is terrible."

Ren walked around the fishing village alone and frowned.

It was like a big fire had just happened here. The houses throughout the village were burn by raging flames and most had been burnt black, a part of the village was turned into a burnt field. The bricks that were used as building material were still tinged with heat, there were also places that were smoldering like live coals.

And ten, the people of the village—. A lot of corpses were scattered about.

But, the victim that was burned in fire was few instead. It was obvious from the wounds. There were only people killed with blade, spear, or beaten to death violently.

"I've talked with the very few people who survived."

Riona came. Even while she was frowning from the unpleasantness, it could be seen how she was trying to maintain her calm using her willpower.

"At the evening today—Greek soldiers came on ship and attacked the village. Normally they would only kill some villagers and pillage the food and valuables before retreating and yet.....today it's as you can see, they thoroughly murdered the villagers and even released fire."

"Normally you say.....I see. You mean procurement of food on site."

Ren sighed. Before transportation method was developed and an army became able to rely on supply line, the soldiers attacking other country would need to purchase the necessary materials on site. Or else they would take the materials away with violence or threat.

However this time the Greek army prioritized massacre rather than procurement on site—.

It was a small village. The population was around a hundred people. But the survivor wasn't even a tenth of it. Ren heard a sobbing voice "U.....h U.....h" from somewhere nearby.

But he intentionally didn't search for the voice's owner or tried to console that person.

The few surviving villagers. Among them there was also woman. There was also woman who seemed to have received violent treatment from Greek soldier. That was why he left the information gathering to Riona. He who was a man shouldn't go. He should vent his rage and miserable feeling for the victim in another way.

Ren kneeled and his right hand reached to the ground.

He ascertained all the blood and despair that were absorbed into this ground with his hand. That was his intention. He gently brushed the dry ground with his index and middle finger, and then when he silently joined his hands together,

".....Hm?"

"Rokuhara-san, watch out!"

When Riona's voice came Ren was already shouting "Uwah!?" and leaped back.

The man who collapsed nearby—someone who obviously wasn't a villager was an armed Greek soldier. It seemed he wasn't dead. The guy was desperately standing and thrust his spear!

Thanks to Ren quickly running away, the tip of the spear cut through empty air.

GAaaaAAAAAN-!

A gunshot. The soldier was shot from the back and collapsed once more.

This time he fell into an eternal sleep for real. Riona who had come nearby when he noticed was the shooter. The girl with an automatic handgun in hand spoke in exasperation.

"How far you are going to run away, Rokuhara-san?"

"Hahaha. I'm thinking to take shelter in a place that is as safe as possible."

"You have told me before but indeed, you're really fast in running away. Ah, this is thirty percent praise and the rest is sarcasm."

Ren had fled with all his strength and moved through a full ten meter distance in an instant.

Ren smiled wryly while going to the side of his lifesaver before they looked down together at the corpse of the attacker.

".....He is a Greek soldier that attacked this village right?"

"Perhaps he got carried away rampaging and got the table turned on him by a villager instead."

Ren nodded at Riona's words.

There were also several other Greek soldiers in similar full equipment lying on the ground.

Bronze armor and helmet. Round shield. A rather short sword and short spear. Brown colored skin throughout the body. The reddish tinge of the skin was too strong to come from sunburn. And above all else the face under the helmet—

Through his life Ren had never seen anyone else with the same skeletal structure like this Greek soldier.

"Somehow his face looks like ant. His face on the whole is long and narrow, then the distance between his eyes is really long, his nose is extremely low.....or rather he has no nose?"

"Most likely he is Myrmidons race."

"Could it be, a monster of Greek mythology?"

"Their type are closer to elf or dwarf. They are the minority people of Aegina Island whose ancestor was ant. I think the minotaurs at the noon might be participant in the Greece allied force from Crete Island . These soldiers too are most likely——"

"As expected from a world of myth. So there is also this kind of race."

".....Rokuhara-san. The Myrmidons are a tribe that reveres the hero Achilles as king. It seems that the strongest warrior of Greece is nearby."

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"If we walk to the north from here along the coast.....we will reach Troia in half a day."

The fishing village that became the victim of slaughter by Achilles's subordinates.

A fisherman around the age of fifty was the one leading the few survivors. He thanked Ren and Riona who helped with the "tidying up" and taught them the way.

"What will uncle and the rest do after this?"

"For the time being, we will rely on our relatives who are living in the nearby village and city....."

When Ren asked about their plan ahead, the fisherman replied powerlessly.

The surviving people took a short rest before departing from the village when dawn came.

By the way, they didn't suspect the identity of Ren and Riona. They could communicate with each other must be because people with strange appearance weren't rare in the world of myth.

"Now. This time it's our turn to depart."

Riona prompted him while the morning glow of the dawn was showering them.

Both of them began to walk. There was no maintained path like a highway, but this area around the coast had an unduly wide plain continuing on, so it was really easy to walk.

Riona seemed to have also predicted the walking trip beforehand. She changed her shoes with sneakers.

"I'm someone who won't be bothered with moving my body, so I'm fine."

Midway, Ren asked his companion.

"Can't Riona just fly? You know, that magic to fly you used before this."

"That way is tiring on its own way, and it also really stand out. There is also that—owl who seems to be a god. It's better to avoid flying as much as possible."

Fortunately—they had managed to procure food. When they helped the villagers preparing for their trip before this, the villagers shared the food that was gathered up from the ruined village with them.

There was simple bread that was made with ancient recipe, dried meat, dried fruit, egg, etc.

Furthermore they also carried leather flasks that were filled with well water and grape wine, and also things like small porcelain tile and the like.

They walked for some distance before taking a rest, where Ren lit a fire with his lighter. He cooked fried eggs using the porcelain tile that was smeared with oil and shared them with Riona.

They put the egg on a flat bread that looked similar with pizza dough and ate them as breakfast and lunch.

"You know, sometimes this world looked really similar to Aegea Sea to me."

Ren stared at the ocean stretching wide to the direction that seemed to be the west and muttered.

The fried egg that was grilled to quite hard texture was also seasoned using olive oil and salt. The cooking was too simple, but they were eating outside so it was fine like this. It was delicious enough.

Then Riona smoothly said.

"The one who compiled Trojan War into the epic poem Iliad is the poet of ancient Greece Homer. Believing that this poem is absolutely a historical

fact—an archeologist at the 19th century, Schliemann [dug up Troia for real]. Do you know of this story?"

"Aa.....! I might have heard of it before."

"Actually it was said that Homer's poet was created using a [real war] that happened at 13 BC. Because there are too many depictions that are similar with the custom of that time. And so, it's not strange even if the Troia in the world of myth is similar with the [earth in reality]."

"I see. Let me put it in my memo."

And then five hours after their departure, they could see a small hill in front of them.

On top of the hill they could see rampart surrounding—a silhouette that seemed to be an ancient city.

"Most likely that is Troia. That should be our destination."

As soon as she said that, Riona folded a Japanese paper into the shape of a crane.

When he let it go to the air, it immediately became a living white heron and flew away. It was the shikigami from before.

"What that bird is seeing will be projected as it is into this mirror using spirit photography technique."

Riona handed over a hand mirror. An image projection was starting there.

It was the sight of a bird looking down from high in the sky—.

The image was a [fortress city built on a coast hill area]. The distance from the sea was around three, four kilometer. The surrounding was surrounded by a strong rampart.

".....There is an army."

The surrounding of Troia that was built on a hill was a sprawling plain.

A great army of tens of thousands of men was taking position there. The force was lined up in the shape of crescent moon, half besieging the city of Troia.

"Could that be, Greece's allied army?"

"Without any doubt.I don't know whether our timing is good or bad. This scene is one of the turning point in Homer's epic poem—a famous act is currently happening there."

Ren realized from Riona's answer.

It was strange. For a war, the place "below" was really quiet.

None of the soldiers of Greece was fighting. The fully armed soldiers were focusing their attention to something that was happening right below the rampart of Troia.

Ahead of the gaze of the whole army, was a triumphant spearman and a defeated swordsman.

"By the way, what kind of scene this is?"

"This is after the hero Achilles defeated the supreme general of Troia Army Hector in a duel. In this act, driven by his hatred the hero Achilles.....humiliate that corpse."

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At the end of a fierce duel, Achilles thrust his spear into the throat of his hateful enemy.

The prince of Troia and the supreme general Hector. The man who murdered his best friend Patroclus. After stabbing that vital spot, the hero

Achilles enjoyed a dark pleasure.

"Hector, say your last word before you depart to the realm of Hades. You should be able to speak."

‘Kukukuku.’ Achilles let out an implicative chuckle.

With a masterful spear handling, the trachea wasn’t injured even after tearing apart the windpipe in the throat. He left his enemy the bare minimum capability to be able to talk. It wasn’t because of kindness.

It was for the sake of making the dying Hector tasted despair at the end of his life.

The bitter foe that collapsed within a cloud of dust glared at Achilles with weakened eyes.

".....With your victory assured like this, there is no need for me to leave behind any words. Just deal the finishing blow to me already."

"Before that, I’ll teach you the fate that is waiting for your corpse."

Fresh blood was spilling out from his bitter foe’s windpipe.

His revenged was completed. Achilles’s eyes narrowed and enjoyed the redness of the blood.

"O shameless dog Hector. I’ll make you pay for the great sin of killing the friend that was my other half to my heart’s content. After this I’ll make sport of your corpse as I pleased—I’ll let the stray dog and wild bird to devour your corpse after it’s reduced into a lump of meat and blood.....!"

"Desist from that, Achilles."

Hector made his appeal. It was more of an admonishment rather than a pleading.

"Deliver my corpse to my parents, the king and queen of Troia who are waiting behind the rampart, and accept the proper ransom money that is

your due! That is not for my sake. That is for the sake of your own honor!"

"Hahahahaha"

Achilles swung his spear along with a loud laughter.

The windpipe of the enemy general Hector was cut horizontally. His life was ended for sure this time.

It was at that instant. The soldiers and generals of Greece that were watching around suddenly them raised cheers and laughter loudly.

"How splendid, o Achilles—don't be swift!"

"The day of victory for our Greece army is approaching!"

"Achilles! Achilles! Achilles! Achilles!"

"Have you learned our rage now Hector, you damn son of rat and pig!"

Achilles kneeled amidst the cheers and his hand stretched toward Hector.

The prince of Troia boasted a robust body and good look. The bronze helmet, gauntlets, greaves, and breastplate were stripped off from the corpse. The shield was also taken away. No, it was retaken back.

"In this first place this is something that belong to me—this Achilles. I lent it to my best friend Patroclus when he departed as my substitute."

Achilles's voice was trembling from rage while saying that.

"It's not something that can be used by the like of you bastard!"

It was the custom of warrior to take away the armor of the defeated brave warrior and general in the battlefield and made them their own.

But, nevertheless—that didn't mean he could allow the enemy to keep the memento of his beloved friend. Achilles stripped off all the armor with such thought.

The really beautiful naked body of Hector became exposed.

If it wasn't the body of his bitter foe, than some kind of passion might welled up inside him.

"O children of Greece. You can do as you please with this guy!"

Hearing Achilles's voice, the nearby soldiers came running.

There were dozens of soldiers. They launched kicks at Hector's body and handsome face, stabbed it with their sword, and did as they please.

Even the soldiers—held resentment until deep in their bone marrow toward this powerful enemy general.

"How's that Hector, now your body has become really easy to carry!"

Achilles listened to the insult of the soldiers like it was a heavenly song.

Furthermore, he also wasn't negligent in the finishing touch. He opened a hole in Hector's feet—through his heel until his ankle. He put a rope through the holes and tied the rope to his chariot.

He made two swift horses to pull the chariot and sprinted around the enemy fortress Troia.

It was to make a display toward the people of Troia and Hector's family who confined themselves behind the rampart. In order to display Achilles's victory and revenge.

Rattle rattle rattle! The wheels were rotating with roaring sound like thunder.

It was the sound of chariot running fast with two horses pulling it. Achilles personally took the rein and placed the armor he took from Hector on the driver's stand.

The corpse of the enemy general that was being dragged by a chariot was becoming full of wounds like an old rag.

It was the result from the rock, cloud of dust, and hard ground thoroughly beating up the body.

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"Even a legendary duel is something nasty isn't it....."

"It's already a cruel scene even just from reading Homer's poem though. But it really give a bad feeling when watching the scene happening in person like this....."

Ren muttered with a fed up tone, while Riona commented in displeasure.

The fortress city Troia was on a hill near the sea. Around it was an open plain with only short grasses filling the area. The two of them were hiding behind a random rock there.

They were watching Achilles's deed through the opera glass that was brought from Kobe.

"That person called Achilles is driving this way."

"The longer the distance he traveled, the damage to the dragged corpse will be just as great. That might be his aim. Though it's also possible that it's only his excitement that hasn't died down yet."

Achilles drove his chariot fast while dragging his bitter foe's corpse.

At first he ran around Troia. But he finally separated from Greece's army and ran until the direction of the plain where Ren and Riona were at.

Even now the admiring yells were still audible from Troia until here.

Surely thousands or tens of thousands of people were crying and shouting inside the rampart of that city. They were grieving the prince and the supreme general of Troia, Hector who died in battle—.

"The killed general is well-liked it seems....."

"In the epic poem that described the events of Trojan War—he is the person with the best personality among the characters. Well, the way he was killed is “like that” though....."

"The Greek soldiers, including Achilles, they seems to have really bad character....."

".....In the historical fact, Trojan War occurred in 13 BC. At that time it seems that Egypt and Hittites Empire that had advanced civilization were troubled with pirating act of the savage [people of the sea]. Nowadays it's said that those people of the sea were the people living in Greece and Italia Peninsula."

"Ah, then"

Ren guessed what Riona tried to say.

"The invasion of Troia by Achilles and others, the allied force of Greece—is actually a historical pirating action that got glorified into myth and legend.....?"

"There are various opinions but, personally I think there is no problem to think of it like that."

"Hahahaha"

It wasn't really a funny story but, Ren powerlessly laughed. He felt that after the successive bloody and tragic occasions, he should laugh instead in order to maintain his emotional balance. And then he noticed.

"Eh? Someone is there."

That person must be lying down on the ground and hiding within the plain's thicket until now.

But, that person suddenly stood up and readied a wooden long bow. It was a splendid long and thick bow that could be perceived as a longbow from a glance. However.

The owner of the bow was a really lovely—beautiful girl.

She had a long silver hair and slender beautiful face that looked really ephemeral. Perhaps her face could even be called as entrancing. But right now the girl was glaring forward with a courageous and dignified face.

Ahead of her lovely gaze was the hero Achilles.

Currently he was driving a chariot that was pulled by two swift horses by himself.

"With this bow—that is the memento of my older brother. I will take revenge without fail!"

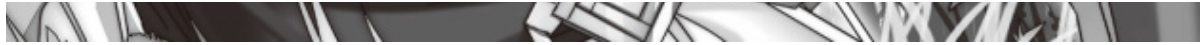
The silver haired maiden yelled with a frail but resolved voice.

The tip of both her ears was slightly pointy. Perhaps she was a member of a mythological race like the Myrmidons—Ren thought. And in front of him,

The beautiful girl nocked an arrow on the long bow and desperately drew back the bowstring!

And then she shot. The girl's arms were slender. They didn't look trained in martial art at all. And yet, with the sound *hyun*, the arrow—flew straight toward Achilles that was riding his chariot fast. Perhaps the soul or will of the [dead brother] was assisting his little sister.





However, Achilles controlled the chariot while swinging his left hand casually.

Kin! The arrow was deflected by a bronze gauntlet.

The famous hero shouted "Haah!" and gave an order to the war horses with a whip of the rein. The chariot that was sprinting like lightning slowed down and finally came to a stop after running some distance. The corpse of the famous general Hector that got dragged also finally stopped moving.

Achilles got down from the chariot and approached the silver haired girl.

"You want to take revenge against me——this Achilles....."

The hero clad in bronze armor and helmet spoke in a low voice.

The girl immediately tried to nock the second arrow. However, that slender arm was too powerless to handle the longbow. She allowed Achilles to approach while she was struggling with the bow.

The silver haired girl gave up and glared sharply at the bronze helmet.

"Yes. Just like how elder brother killed your friend, you also killed my elder brother. You should understand my feeling that wish to take revenge right.....?"

"Kukukuku. I see."

Achilles looked at the girl. And then he looked at behind his chariot.

Troia's hero Hector. His corpse that was full of wound and turned into a lump of meat was tied there.

"Certainly there is a trace of Hector's look in you. I don't know which one are you, but you must be a daughter of Troia's king. Princess, let's hear your name."

"My name.....is Cassandra."

"I've heard that name before. The rumored princess who caught the eyes of the famed lady killer god Apollo. But, even so this is strange. You were lying in ambush—as though you had known that I will ride alone through there....."

Achilles muttered in suspicion.

His tall and robust body, his numerous beautiful equipments, each of them didn't shame his status as hero.

The girl called Cassandra was obviously shaking from confronting him from nearby like this. However, she courageously held back her fear from coming to the surface and strongly bit her lip.

"Well, doesn't matter. Right now what's important is your beauty."

"Kyaah!?"

Achilles suddenly drew out the long sword on his waist and it slashed.

Cassandra was cut down, wasn't what happened. Her white gown's—shoulder string was the only thing that got cut.

It was the same type of outfit that was worn by Greek's goddess statue, the same like Stella.

Only a part at the left shoulder got cut apart, naturally Cassandra's clothes became opened. Her dazzling bare skin and voluptuous bust almost became exposed. In contrast with her ephemeral beauty and slender limbs, her body was amazingly mature as a woman.

Cassandra immediately hid her chest with both hands and glared at Achilles once more.

"I.....I heard the rumor. The conduct that is like a beast that the warrior of Greece will show in the battlefield. I, is Achilles-dono who is a son of god.....also like that!?"

"It's the custom of the battlefield. Today is a joyous day."

Achilles snickered under his helmet.

"Not only I managed to consign my bitter foe to oblivion, I even receive his little sister as the spoils of war."

"KYAAAAAAAAAAH!?"

The hero's sword slashed once more. This time it severed the longbow that Cassandra's hand was holding. This cruel act—was witnessed by Ren and Riona from behind a rock slight distance away.

"Hey Riona. That Achilles"

Ren asked in worry for Cassandra's safety.

"Could it be he doesn't have anything like spirit of chivalry—at all!?"

"I think.....no. That kind of mentality that [woman should be protected] was only born in Europe more than two thousand years after this era. The heroes of Greek mythology sometimes would take away the wife or daughter of the defeated enemy as [trophy of victory] and turned them into slave."

Loathing that couldn't be suppressed was oozing out from Riona's voice.

"The hero Achilles will add dozens of woman into his possession until the end of this war—he is an enemy of woman. There was also daughter of Troia king among those women. The other heroes also did similar thing, but just because of that, I have no intention to defend his action."

"Yosh, Riona. Let me command you."

"Are you going to tell me to release my full power and beat up Achilles so badly he won't recover?"

Riona smiled fearlessly like a queen from Ren's words.

"As expected even me will be in a really hard battle facing against "a hero in an equal class with war god". But, I'll show you how I take away

the princess from that bastard using all my spiritual power. That's a good order coming from Rokuhara-san."

Many women who were weak physically received suffering in this other world. Perhaps because she had seen such situation several times since coming here, Riona was speaking with extremely warlike tone.

However, Ren immediately shook his head.

"Ah, no. Of course I don't mind liberating your strength. But I'll go first, and then I want you to back me up using your judgment. If the worst case happen to me, then go back to earth by yourself and search for a new goshujin-sama."

"Eh.....?"

"Then, I'm going. —Oi Achilles, I'll become your opponent!"

Ren quickly came out from behind the rock.

He picked up a rock that was lying on the ground nearby and threw it to the fully armed hero. Even though at that timing Achilles was trying to push down the resisting Cassandra forcefully.

He immediately pushed away the girl and swung his left arm.

The rock that was thrown from behind him—was splendidly struck down.

"Who are you? A warrior of Troia?"

"No. Just a passing by Japanese person, Rokuhara Ren. Recently I was often told that looked like a prince. So I intend to work hard so that I can be properly called as prince."

"I've never heard of a land that is called Japan."

Achilles snickered seeing Ren who came uninvited.

"This isn't a scene where the like of you—a brat who doesn't even carry shield or sword can appear at. You better leave right away..... Hm.....?"

Suddenly, the hero with unparalleled valor narrowed his eyes.

He stared at Ren with suspicion. Ren's height was 178 cm and weighed around 60 kg. Achilles stared the slender Japanese person that looked really thin compared to the heroes of legend with extremely suspicious gaze.

He picked the round shield he discarded to the ground and hardened his defense.

Achilles and Hector had height that surpassed 190 cm and the thickness of their muscle was also amazing.

Comparing their physique, there was no need for him to be vigilant against Rokuhara Ren, and yet—.

(Could it be, he noticed something?)

Ren felt a dread inside his heart.

The three arrows that he received from the sun god Apollo. As expected from a weapon of god, he understood how to use it just from thinking of its existence. The arrows would work if he simply lift the right hand where they resided high to the sky.

"Well, I have projectile weapon here. If it looks bad, I can just run away quickly."

Ren muttered positively and carelessly.

If he fired an [arrow] to the ground below that hero and held him back—the index finger of his right hand was going to point high to the sky. At that instant.

"There is no way I will let a low-born like you do anything strange."

Achilles moved to in front of Ren in less than an instant.

On top of that his shield—struck. Perhaps it was his [warrior's instinct] telling him that it was faster to hit with his shield rather than drawing out his sword. Ren tasted an impact as though he got hit by a large truck and he got blown to far away.

"Waaaaaah!?"

What speed. That speed even looked like the speed of light or lightning.

Ren thought that while his consciousness was getting farther—

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"What a stupid goshujin-sama!"

Riona cursed. Rokuhara Ren was blown away by the shield's attack.

He must be making light of the opponent because of the existence of the arrows of the sun god Apollo. However, that hero's nickname was Achilles the Swift. A great runner that boasted a swiftness that was number one even in the world of god.

"I'll at least carry out his last order!"

Her master of convenience, Rokuhara Ren most likely had died instantly.

The hero Achilles stepped in with godspeed while attacking with his shield using his whole body like a tackle. The impact should be like a collision with a large dump truck. The person who got hit by that naturally would—

"Transform!"

Riona chanted the words of power of transformation. This time she didn't transform into Yatagarasu, but into a small blue swallow. She passed beside Achilles using the small body and agility.

She arrived at the side of the girl Cassandra whose appearance was immodest with her clothes cut apart.

Riona spoke words with her swallow form.

"Come with me. Let's run!"

"Ye, yes—"

Cassandra who was a daughter of Troia king seemed to have a really obedient personality.

She followed what the swallow said and ran behind it. Riona paid attention so that she wouldn't be left behind while flapping her wings.

Now then, which way should she escape to?

Slightly ahead—there was a steep cliff. If they could run until there, she could transform into Yatagarasu, took in Cassandra into her body using spiritual power, and flew away—.

"This way!"

"Aa, don't! You cannot go that way!"

For some reason Cassandra opposed Riona's instruction.

For some reason—that objection strangely irritated Riona. She didn't even feel like hearing Cassandra's reason and wordlessly flew toward the cliff.

Cassandra too didn't speak of her opinion further than that and wordlessly followed behind. And then.

"We are—overtaken!?"

Before the steep cliff, two sturdy horses appeared. Riona was astounded.

They were the swift horses that should be tied to Achilles's chariot until just now.

"Come to think of it, the horses of the hero Achilles are the children of spirit of wind. They are an existence with a class that is close to me, a sacred bird....."

The sacred horses Xanthus and Balius. She also remembered their name.

The two swift horses were really smart, furthermore they were staring the two of them with the fierce gaze of warrior. Something like releasing their connection with the chariot by their own will was a simple act for them. They even neighed threateningly and held back Riona and Cassandra.

Cassandra groaned "Aa....." and stopped her feet.

Riona also flew to the girl's side. She also dispelled her transformation. Seeing the quick transformation of the blue swallow into a Japanese high school girl, the princess of the world of myth watched wide eyed in astonishment.

There was no time to explain, so Riona chanted new words of power.

"Manifest——"

Golden aura and red flame swelled up from Toba Riona's whole body.

Incarnation into the sacred bird Yatagarasu. If it was now then Rokuhara Ren's "order" was still valid. However.

"Hou. So you are a witch.....on top of that, you are also a spirit of fire."

The hero Achilles's sigh of admiration poured cold water on her.

He slowly pursued Riona and Cassandra who were held back by the two sacred horses.

"How pitiful. You might be able to escape from the heaven sent child of wind or earth. But the mother of I——Achilles is the goddess of water. Fire

is extinguished by water. Here and now I will pray to my mother Tethys.
.....O mother, erase the flame of this cursed witch."

"No way!?"

Riona was horrified. The figure of a goddess appeared behind Achilles.

It was the illusion of a lovely goddess clad in blue veil. She was half transparent.

She was gently stared by this illusion—and her technique of manifestation was interrupted. Even though the golden aura and flame that were swelling up from Riona's body would incarnate into Yatagarasu with a bit more time!

Riona quietly muttered.

"Using flight magic.....I shouldn't use that, I guess."

The secret art to fly through the sky by transforming into blue light. She would become defenseless while using that.

Achilles's chariot should be carrying his bow, arrow, and spear too. With the skill of bow and throwing spear of a great hero, shooting down a flying Riona would be a child's play.

She was cornered into what was called a checkmate in shogi—. When she was about to be gnawed by such despair,

"Riona! And also the other girl! Jump together with me!"

"Rokuhara-san!?"

"Kyaaaaah!?"

Unexpectedly Rokuhara Ren sprinted toward them with a magnificent swiftness. He carried Riona and Cassandra using both his arms while jumping down to the sea from the cliff—.

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DOBOooooooooOOOOOOONNNNN-!

The distance from the cliff until the sea surface was around ten meter. The impact when landing on the water knocked Ren hard. He was gradually sinking into the bottom of the sea inside the marine blue sea water. However, he desperately floated up until the sea surface and his face finally broke out of the water.

He finally could take in air and he literally took a breath.

Looking around, the heads of Riona and the silver haired girl were also coming out from the sea.

"That's great. You two are also fine."

"Tha, thank you very much, mister from foreign country!"

"How come you are safe, Rokuhara-san!?"

"That was dangerous. Just before Achilles tackled me, I got a bad premonition. When I stepped back to escape, my foot slipped."

Thanks to that, he was hit by the shield while falling down.

At that time both his feet were apart from the ground—the enemy charged him while he was floating midair.

That must be why. Although he was sent flying far away, by rolling around on the ground he was able to neutralize the momentum. Bracing one's legs when at that kind of time would deal a great damage instead.

Ren disclosed the trick like that.

It was also fortunate that the place he fell on was a soft meadow.

If he crashed on rocky place or concrete—it was shuddering to imagine that.

"As expected I almost got concussion though."

Ren laughed lightly and clung on a block of wood that was drifting on the sea.

Luckily a broken piece of shipwreck flowed toward them—no. It wasn't shipwreck. It was the wreckage from the result of a clash of warships between Troia versus Greece that was turned into scraps at the sea.

That was why it wasn't a good luck, but an inevitability due to the battlefield.

Riona also clung on the same wood. The silver haired girl whose name seemed to be Cassandra also did the same.

"Anyway, I'm glad everyone is safe."

"......It seems it's too early to say that. Rokuhara-san, look there."

An ancient styled sailing ship was approaching from the direction where Riona pointed with her gaze.

The one standing on the bow of the ship was—Achilles. While Ren and others were drifting at the sea, he boarded a ship and chased after them!

"It can't be helped. I'll try using that for real this time."

"You must not, mister foreigner!"

Ren was puzzled because of Cassandra's warning.

"Even if you fire the golden arrow, Achilles-dono's shield will block it!"

"You're—how do you know about the arrow?"

It was the trump card that should be known only by the two of them.

Ren was surprised. At the same time, a murky misgiving of [Isn't this girl lying?] was welling up inside him. It happened suddenly without any reason

at all.

The misgiving that came all too suddenly. Ren tried to forcefully ignore it and noticed.

Riona was—staring at Cassandra doubtfully. Perhaps she was also possessed by the same misgiving like Ren.

Ren spoke energetically to liberate himself and Riona from that.

"Anyway, we've to give it a try. Move faster before thinking—!"

Ren managed to point at the sky with the index finger of his right hand this time.

The sun was shining brilliantly at the perfectly clear sky of Troia. Golden light came down from there like an arrow.

That was truly a [pillar of sunlight].

It was an arrow for the sake of swallowing the hero Achilles and the sailing ship on the sea, in order to burn them to ash!

"Oo! As expected you were hiding a genuine weapon of the world of god!"

Achilles yelled at the bow of the ship that was approached by the sunlight laser.

"Fufufufu. Brat, it looks like the evil omen I felt from you wasn't just my imagination. However—weep and cry. Achilles also have famed arms of his own!"

The swift and brave hero lifted his round shield to the front.

Silver light instantly enveloped the whole ship, isolating it from the fierce might of the sunlight. It was a protective wall, a barrier that was characteristic of the domain of legend.

Muse

"O goddess of poetry, sing the honor of my arms. The armor and shield of this Achilles were forged by the god of blacksmith Hephaestus due to the entreaty of my mother Tethys! This hardness won't be pierced by any means, even by this shining arrow——!"

Achilles's shield had durable structure from five bronze planks stacked on top of each other.

The radiance of his breastplate was more dazzling than even blazing flame, his helmet was decorated with golden decoration. His silver greaves were made from tin. Everything was the quality product of the blacksmith god Hephaestus.

And then, Cassandra who was watching the sea surface along with Ren and Riona was——

"Aah, just as I thought!"

She casted her gaze down. However, Ren immediately yelled.

"Then the second shot!"

"Nuuuuh! O Hephaestus, o mother, grant Achilles your divine protection!"

Ren pointed to the sky once more and dropped down the golden arrow in succession.

Against the pillar of sunlight that was pouring down incessantly, Achilles prayed to the heaven on the bow of the warship. The radiance of the silver protective wall protecting him and the ship was increasing——.

The attacking arrow of the sun god Apollo, and the defending armor of blacksmith god Hephaestus.

The offense and defense of sanctuary fought each other evenly, but,

"You hateful enemy of my elder brother! Receive this arrow that is filled with the hatred of us the royalty of Troia!"

A small ship had approached unnoticed. A man with radiant handsome look was riding it.

He was about to fire a longbow. Achilles who was desperately defending against Apollo's arrow—had his flank taken by that small ship.

Cassandra yelled seeing the new archer with the radiant handsome look.

"Paris-oniisama!"

The handsome Paris fired multiple arrows.

All the arrows were deflected by the silver protective wall protecting the ship, but one arrow somehow pierced through the layer of light and the hero Achilles's heel—was pierced!

"Nu, OOOOOOOH!"

A roar of anguish gushed out from Achilles's mouth.

Like that he fell down on the ship with a banging sound. The silver barrier from Hephaestus's arms also vanished, and the pillar of sunlight trampled the warship of Achilles with its full might. The whole ship was evaporated almost instantly—.

"Just now, the place where Achilles got shot, it's the Achilles's heel right?"

Ren muttered while getting soaked in sea water. Beside him Riona also nodded.

"Yes. Originally Achilles should have an immortal trait—that spot is his only weak spot. Right after he was born, his mother Tethys dipped her son into the River Styx in the realm of the dead, changing his body into an immortal body. But, at that time his mother was holding on his ankle so—"

"Only that spot didn't get soaked in water and became the weak point of the immortal body huh....."

Ren murmured before letting out a relieved sigh.

"We're able to win against such great hero, so it's our gold star victory."

"Though the trump card—Apollo's arrows. There is only one of them remaining....."

And then, the princess Cassandra was sending a gaze that was filled with gratitude and interest to the two people of earth that displayed mysterious power and achievement.

Chapter 3 – The Enemy's Name is Athena

1

Two days passed since the hero Achilles died in battle—

Rokuhara Ren's title was elevated from [the passing by Japanese person] to [the brave warrior who saved princess Cassandra and assisted in defeating the hateful Achilles].

Unbelievably right now he was staying in the palace of Troia as a guest.

His comrade Riona was also together with him. She also got the title of [a witch who could transform into bird] put on her and the people in Troia palace gave her respectful gaze.

.....Of course, there was a reason for this friendly treatment.

"Ren-dono. The Greeks are attacking this city again!"

"Aaa, it would be great if we just immediately leave to somewhere at that time."

A military commander of the palace came reporting to him, so he hurriedly went out of the city.

Greek army continued to besiege Troia even after Achilles's death. They came launching attack once more with great number.

The enemy's morale was high in order to take revenge for the hero's tragic death.

Troia army that was in the defending side was still unable to rally themselves.

There a request for Ren's assistance arrived. Although, it would be a bit too wasteful to use up the remaining Apollo's arrow here.

"Then, I'm counting on you Stella."

"Good grief, what a hopeless man. Well, if it's this kind of crude matter, then we will be able to depend on that person somehow so.....come god of war Ares, o god who is clad in bronze. If you haven't forgotten your roma—friendship with the goddess of beauty, grant me your momentary assistance!"

For some reason Stella's throat got stuck in the middle while she used her Friendship Circle.

A tank came running from the sky. Of course it wasn't the tank that was the invention of the 20th century, but a chariot pulled by two horses that was the same like the chariot Achilles used.

The one riding it was a war general wearing bronze helmet.

"Please Ares, can I ask you to scatter apart the insolent bunch of Greece!?"

".....You intentionally summoned the king of war that is me for that trivial matter?"

The war god Ares talked with a displeased tone.

His chariot came to a stop midair. Ren looked up to him from the ground. Stella who was sitting on Ren's shoulder was making a natural upward glance with moist eyes.

Well, there was no way Ares would be moved by that but—

".....Hmph" Ares suddenly took off in his chariot.

The Greek army was advancing toward Troia's rampart, furthermore there were also soldiers watching for the timing to land from the Greek ships on the sea—Ares drove around his chariot above their head heroically.

Rumble rumble rumble rumble!

The sound of chariot wheels running through the sky sounded like thunder.

This roaring sound made the generals and soldiers of Greece to feel discomposed right away. These people who were bravely charging forward until then in order to take revenge for Achilles suddenly began to flee!

".....What, in the world is that?"

"Manipulating <ruby>fear</rt>deimos</rt></ruby> and <ruby>taking flight</rt>phobos</rt></ruby> in battlefield is also Ares's authority."

Stella answered Ren's question. Her expression was relieved.

"He is a god who doesn't really hold interest to event outside battlefield, so it's fortunate that a scene where we can make a request to him is nicely arranged like this."

However, Ren felt ill at ease.

It seemed that sometimes Ares would glare at his way from the chariot that was rushing through the sky with thunderous sound.

"Did I, do something to anger that god?"

"Rokuhara-san. Speaking of the war god Ares, he is one of the adulterous partners or the goddess Aphrodite."

Riona smoothly informed him. Ren nodded in respond.

"Aaa, so that's it, I see now."

"Stu, stupid-. That's obviously just a baseless rumor that is completely untrue!"

It was hidden by the bronze helmet, but Ares was quite handsome.

And then Stella=Aphrodite had the tendency to be[attracted by physical looks]. In any case, the army of Greek that was burning with vengeance finally retreated.

Troia's side that was in a hard fight could finally take a breather with this.

"We also get a chance to receive new present with this.....wait, eh?"

Ren was surprised. Because the war god Ares who routed the enemy army was leaving to the opposite direction of the Greek army using his chariot.

"He won't even greet Stella before leaving!?"

"I told you just now, Ren. The god of war who is clad in bronze has no interest in anything other than war, so don't expect anything further after summoning him."

"As expected from the god of the warrior tribe Scythians that rivaled the Saiyan....."

Riona commented in admiration.

Well, in any case, this was the victory of Troia's side. When they returned to the city together with the soldiers who had fought hard, the people welcomed them with loud cheers.

—OOOOOOOOOOOOOOO-!

—OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO-!

Ren and Riona mingled with the army that formed lines and got showered fully with cheers.

"So this is the so called triumphal return. It feels really pleasant."

"Although Rokuhara-san was simply relying upon others, you're still a person who has rendered a distinguished service and saved the city, more or less. I think you won't receive karma even if you feel good from this."

The two of them had their achievement recognized and were put on a chariot.

The driving of the horse was left to a coachman, while the two of them had their feel of the cheers to their heart's content at the back. When they waved their hand, the gathered spectators raised their voices even louder.

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And then a few days passed.

Ren and Riona were given private room inside the castle.

There was soft and clean bed that felt comfortable. They were also given exclusive slaves that cleaned the room and took care of the everyday necessities for them. All their need was taken care of. There was also no need to worry for food.

"This might be the first time I can have it so easy like this when coming to a world of myth."

"It's great that we don't need to travel with only the clothes we're wearing, it's a completely different experience. Furthermore the bath here.....we can enter bathtub that is filled full of hot water."

"It's a palace after all, the servants worked hard to draw the hot water for us."

The two of them were talking to each other with easygoing mood at a calm early afternoon with sunny weather.

They had just finished their lunch that they asked the kitchen to prepare for them at the palace's garden. By the way, here at Troia their breakfast

consisted only of simple things like a single piece of bread and a bowl of oat porridge.

In return, the meal at noon and night was proper meal.

The menu that they ate today was boiled egg, goat's cheese, bread that was cut into triangle shape like cake, marinated duck meat that was grilled, almond pickled in honey, watermelon, and pomegranate juice.

"Unexpectedly even though they're in the middle of war, what's more in a battle that is like a siege, they aren't lacking in food. The streets where I went to play yesterday also had a lot of food stalls."

Riona smoothly replied to Ren's muttering.

"In history Troia was a commercial city that became a trade center of land and sea. It's said that it was extremely prosperous. It should have abundance of foods."

"It seems the Troia in the myth is also like that. This palace too feels like it cost a lot."

"That's why Greece's allied army came all the way to this place to plunder it. Well, but, in Greek mythology the reason for them to fight—actually properly exist though."

At that time, talking voices were approaching.

Those voices obviously belonged to "flirting man and woman".

[The brave brother-in-law Hector has died, will this city be alright?]

[Don't worry, beautiful Helene. Your husband is the hero who brought down the hateful Achilles, and a man who swore to protect you even at the cost of his life.]

[But Paris. When I thought that you would meet danger because of that, I.....!]

Ren and Riona were—looking at each other's face and immediately hid behind a tree.

A man and a woman arrived. The man was someone familiar even for Ren. It was Prince Paris who shot down the hero Achilles at the previous battle. The big brother of the beautiful princess Cassandra.

[Anyway Helene. Right now let the both of us enjoy the delight of love together!]

[Yes! Wrap me up with your love. Come, to the bed over there.....]

The flirting of the prince Paris and his wife Helene didn't look like it would settle anytime soon.

The two Japanese people left that place. After taking far enough distance, Riona suddenly spoke.

"By the way, that idiot coup.....no, that couple is the cause of Trojan War."

"Eh, is that so?"

"The peerless beauty Helene is originally the queen of Sparta, a powerful country in Greece. But she fell in love with Prince Paris who was a diplomat, then the two of them eloped until Troia. The angry countries of Greece formed an allied army. They said [We're taking back love!] and began a battle to take back Helene."

"So that's the cause of Trojan War....."

"What's more Prince Paris, didn't just do elopement without thinking."

It didn't stop there. Riona enumerated further for Ren.

"In Homer's epic poem Iliad, he refused to participate in battle because of fear. Even when he unwillingly appeared in the frontline, he willfully deserted under enemy attack. And after all that he hid the fact that he ran

away, flirted with Helene, and intruded into the house of his former girlfriend saying that it's to treat his wound....."

Ren groaned "Uuunn".

"That prince called Paris, he was really gallant when defeating Achilles and looked wonderfully strong though—. Somehow the impression is different."

"Actually this is a really important point for us.Rokuhara-san."

Suddenly Riona brought her face closer.

Whether it was Cassandra or Helene, this was a world with so many beautiful man and woman.

Those girls—didn't only have nice facial features. They were also clad in aura that was out of this world that was unlike that of normal people. They were existence that stood out and shined brightly just by being there.

Riona also emitted the same atmosphere while speaking.

"Could it be that Rokuhara-san is feeling optimist after defeating the great hero Achilles? Perhaps you're thinking that preventing the downfall of Troia—will be manageable somehow."

"Honestly speaking, I'm thinking that a bit."

"Then, it's better for you to brace yourself. Achilles getting removed even before the final part of Trojan War, is within the established plot."

"Eh, you're lying right!?"

Ren spoke in surprise.

"The main character of Trojan War is Achilles. It's that kind of story isn't it!?"

"Yes. And then, there is one more hidden main character. It's Prince Paris. He is [the one destined to defeat the great hero Achilles]. [Sooner or later the sun god Apollo and Prince Paris will combine their strength to consign the immortal Achilles to oblivion]. There is even that kind of prophecy."

Riona talked apthetically. Certainly Prince Paris fired the finishing blow after Rokuhara Ren fired the arrow of Apollo.

The plot of the myth didn't really change. Ren grumbled.

"Then, it will be better if he act more "fittingly" as that kind of character. Well, I don't hate someone like him though, I feel affinity to that easygoing atmosphere of him....."

"It seems that in the myth that preceded Homer, there is verses where he is more like the orthodox heroic prince. But the poets of Greece, especially Homer, they might have edited Prince Paris into a no good man in order to make [Achilles who meet an untimely death] stand out more as main character....."

Riona concluded that there was that kind of theory.

"In fact, throughout the long Trojan War, sometimes Prince Paris would be awakened as though he was a completely different person and showed a power worthy of a hero. Though that awakening didn't continue for long."

"Perhaps that's a trace of his character before the forceful change remaining in the long story here and there huh."

"In the first place, do you think that the immortal hero is so soft that he would get killed by a no-good man who only has good look?"

"No, indeed."

They won exactly because the arrows of Prince Paris contained enough power.

It was just as Riona said. At that time, the protective barrier from Achilles's shield was still going strong after all.....

Ren's shoulders dropped. Riona watched him with a bit of delight.

When the two of them returned to their personal room in the palace—a Trojan manservant was waiting for them.

"Cassandra-sama would love to meet with the both of you too today....."

It was a summon from the beautiful princess.

Since that day, she was unusually interested to the two strange foreigners.

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2

The fortress city Troia that was build on top of a hill.

It was surrounded in four directions by a rampart that was built from piled up sun-dried bricks.

The height was a little less than ten meters, the length of the east and west sides was roughly 250 meter, while the length of the south and north sides was around 200 meter.

The inside of the city was relatively lively despite the continuation of the long war.

.....In the end, the [Greece allied army=pirate theory] that Riona advocated must be correct.

They were similar to [a mish-mash of pirate groups], [even if they had enough number but there was no end to their internal dispute][the leadership of the alliance was shaky]. That was why, [they only attacked Troia and its sphere of influence sporadically].

Thanks to that, Troia that was in the defending side had quite the leeway—.

"After all Paris-san and Helene-san can still act like that....."

Ren muttered seriously.

He was looking down on the city from the palace balcony that was built at the highest spot in this city. Other than the palace there was only single-storied buildings, so the view was wonderfully amazing. In addition the vividly blue sea was stretching without end at the other side of the hill—.

And then, the princess of the palace that boasted the superb view was right beside him.

"Is something the matter.....with Onii-sama and Helene-sama?"

"Ah. We happened to see the two of them getting along really well just now."

"That's good then. Especially Helene-sama—with the death of Hector-niisama, her position should become really difficult after all....."

The kind Princess Cassandra said with a relieved loo.

Prince Hector. The supreme general who was murdered by Achilles before this. Riona casually cut in here.

"The noble Prince Hector always treated Helene who eloped with his little brother gentlemanly—he is one of the few people who would do so. After all she is [the main cause of the war] after all....."

"Aah, certainly, doing something like that isn't easy at all."

"His character is to the degree that the later generation praised him as [the model of knight], leaving behind Achilles who was the victor."

People who badly treated woman in that kind of situation—might be the majority.

That was the custom of the world of man. Especially in an environment with a lot of stress that was war. Ren deeply felt that a person who was too good for this world had died.

Cassandra smiled gently seeing the foreigner male acting like that.

"I have the feeling.....that Ren-sama is a bit similar with Hector-niisama."

"Really? I'm happy if that's the case. If you want, you can call me "Onii-sama"——"

"Rokuhara-san. In this case you should consider it as Princess Cassandra's polite words or momentary delusion."

"Riona, I also faintly thought that might be the case. But isn't it fine for me to dream for a bit?"

"Seed of misunderstanding and wild delusion has to be plucked right away."

"Fufufufu. The conversation of the both of you are really fun. Are all the people of the country called Japan like the both of you?"

"As a Japanese, I believe that this person is an extremely special case."

"I return the same exact words back to you."

"My. Is that so!"

Cassandra laughed looking really delighted.

Her reaction was really honest and virtuous. And then, it also looked a bit exaggerated, as though she was acting brave. The sadness and feeling of loss from losing her reliable big brother——she was deliberately acting cheerful to not show those emotions on the surface.

She wanted to meet with Ren and Riona every day must be from the feeling of wanting to have a change of mood.

By the way—the ears of Cassandra, Prince Paris, and Helene were curiously pointed. All of them were said to be descended from god.

Perhaps that sacred lineage became apparent from their ears.

However, the beautiful princess of another world's "unusualness" wasn't limited to just that—.

"Say Cassandra. Don't you have times when your judgment is especially good?"

When they were getting cornered by Achilles, Cassandra showed [foresight] every time. Ren didn't forget it. The princess in question hesitated to answer it.

Then Riona answered in her place.

"Rokuhara-san. Princess Cassandra has precognition ability."

"Precognition? That's amazing!"

"Attracted by the princess's beauty, the sun god Apollo granted her that ability. But when he approached her to become his lover as the compensation and the princess refused it—he placed a curse on her. It's said that anyone on earth become unable to believe Princess Cassandra's foresight....."

"My—. It's amazing that Riona-sama is aware of that!"

Princess Cassandra sent an admiring gaze at the Japanese girl.

"As expected from the person who possess the power of witch!"

"I'm honored.Actually, I should have noticed that right away. The story of [Troia's Prophet] is famous after all. But, at that time—I also got affected by Apollo's curse. Because of that I couldn't believe princess's words and even my presence of mind got disturbed....."

"That generous Apollo-san placed such curse?"

Ren tilted his head. There was still one remaining arrow that he received from Apollo.

Ren wondered if it was really true that such youthful god with radiance that was exactly like a sun would have that kind of episode that was obviously unsuited—malicious for him.

"Ah, no. That person, certainly the smell of a ruffian was coming strongly from him....."

Ren recalled Apollo's conversation with Stella and he resolved himself.

"When I meet him next time, I'll complain about Cassandra's matter."

"No, Ren-sama. This is a punishment that is given to me because of—my imprudence."

The princess of Troia suddenly spoke solemnly.

"With how I turned my back to his will to add me to the rank of his lovers and to appoint me as his priestess, it's only natural for a divine punishment to be passed on me. Furthermore Apollo-sama, in regard to Troia where a woman like me is living—he keep his protection for us without any change despite all that....."

Cassandra joined her arms in front of her chest and spoke what was inside her heart piously.

Now that she mentioned it, Ren recalled. The sun god Apollo, the war god Ares, and the goddess of love Aphrodite should be supporting the city of Troia.

On the other hand, the gods supporting the side of Greek if he remembered correctly were—

"Without the presence of the shining Lord Apollo, we won't be able to possibly contest the terrifying force of Greece. Because after all is said and done, at that side the beloved daughter of the great god Zeus, the princess goddess with shining eyes is present so....."

"Shining eyes—what?"

"The princess whose beautiful visage contained the radiance of star. The goddess of war Athena."

Cassandra recited the goddess's name with awe and fear.

Athena's name was just too famous. As expected even Ren knew it.

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"Yes, that's right. Compared to that double faced woman who pretended to be innocent, someone Achilles is just a small fry in the end."

That guy is the weakest man even among the four heavenly kings—.

The one who cursed with such mood was Ren's "partner" Stella.

"Are you listening? The number of the force of Greece that is attacking Troia is as many as the stars. But the enemy who is the most crafty, burning with fighting spirit, and troublesome is—the goddess Athena without a doubt!"

After taking their leave from Cassandra's presence, they went to the palace's garden.

It was already night. When Ren called her name under the half-moon, Stella came out from the ground like a foam. There she mentioned Athena's name.

"That woman you see, she is the favorite of Lord Zeus. In the war this time too she put on air like a queen and spearheaded the heroes of the Greece that is the home territory of the lord. Even though she put on an act like a pure hearted virgin goddess, she made the men served her whim and got full of herself. It's really laughable."

The mini beautiful girl with height of 30 cm laughed scornfully and sarcastically.

Her words were really full of thorn. Riona was in admiration while Ren was surprised.

"As expected from Aphrodite who is a preeminent carouser even in the world of goddess of all times and countries and the miss stoic. Their relationship is bad as a matter of course..... Even though both of them are Zeus's daughter."

"Then, it's a sisters quarrel?"

".....Aah, we are officially sisters after a fashion aren't we."

Stella spoke with words that contained a hidden meaning before she scornfully laughed even more. Perhaps this was Ren's first time seeing his partner expressing her antagonism until this far. Ren muttered.

"A goddess who Stella hate by this much huh. I want to try meeting her a bit."

"You're stupid just as I thought, Ren. You've already—met her face to face."

"Eh?"

"Speak of the devil and she will appear..... How shameful. For a goddess of all people to immodestly eavesdrop like this..."

Stella suddenly stared coldly at behind Ren.

Ren immediately turned around. There was an ash tree with splendid shape there. On its treetop—a single owl was perched.

"It has been a long time, princess of Cyprus Island. So you haven't forgotten my name."

It was the mysterious owl that he encountered several days ago in Kobe City.

That mysterious owl appeared in front of Ren and others when they noticed.

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3

"How do you do? Protector goddess of Athens, and the bitch princess who is wagging her tail to Lord Zeus."

"You are still an ignorant lady princess like usual."

The owl spoke with a girl's voice in respond to Stella's sarcasm.

"The servant beasts that are the retainers of me——this Athena are the birds of the owl kind, and then the snake. And then there is also the beasts of the forest I believe. I'm not particularly related to dog."

"My. So the lady who is the goddess of wisdom doesn't even understand when someone is talking in sarcasm to her!"

"......Fuh. So that's it. Forgive me. I couldn't imagine that Princess Aphrodite with her empty head will be able to do such wordplay."

It was a supernatural war of words by a doll sized girl and a suspicious owl.

However, putting aside the solemnity of the vocabulary that they used, the content was a [woman's battle] that was a bit vulgar. He saw it now, these two had rivalry between them.

And then, the owl silently descended to the ground——

The next moment, it transformed into a girl. Her age must be around 13 or 14. She was wearing a robe with dark green color, but the hood was lowered down. Her rather short silver hair contained radiance like liquefied moonlight, while her eyes reminded him of jet black onyx.

It went without saying that she was beautiful. But, what surprised Ren above all else was her gaze.

Even though her pupils were jet black—they seemed to shine with strong brilliance to him. The sharpness and sublimity of her gaze made him thought so.

"So this is Athena....."

The goddess of wisdom and war. Even a Japanese person who was ignorant of Greek mythology knew of her.

Here Ren noticed. Athena was holding a bishop's staff, but its tip had silver handiwork that was modeled after [a snake with its fangs bared].

The one who silently took a step forward toward Athena—was Riona.

"If you haven't forgotten of my impoliteness of the other day then..... please forgive this greeting. It's an honor to meet you again, Goddess Athena."

"I haven't forgotten. I also don't think of it as impolite. I remember you, surface dweller."

Athena spoke large-heartedly to the high school girl in blazer.





"In the end, you hastened toward your death. You leaped into a world that will meet its end before long, furthermore—you're attempting to meddle unnecessarily into a strife where only gods and heroes can participate."

"Because if Troia become the one that come out victorious, even that end can be avoided."

As expected from the reincarnation of the sacred bird Yatagarasu who was "nearer to god rather than man".

She spoke brazenly with a great goddess as her talking partner. Athena formed a smile on her immature beautiful face.

"Fufufufu. Do you think that you have influenced something after burying Achilles? But, that man, he was after all a human who shouldered the fate to be defeated halfway. Simply by defeating such person——"

"You believe that the big picture won't change? To think that Athena of the shining eyes of all people will be that naïve."

Stella cut in provocatively.

"Don't you think that you should say such words after you consigned to oblivion——Rokuhara Ren here?"

"Eh? You are dumping it to me there Stella?"

Ren who was in the position and mood as spectator faltered.

In the first place, a man interfering with woman's battle wouldn't bring a good result. Even though he was secretly endeavoring to become one with the air as much as possible——.

"Hou"

It was like thunder in blue sky. Athena stared at Ren.

From the perspective of a Japanese, her appearance wasn't that much different from a middle school girl. But, there was no way there was a girl in her early teen with a gaze this sharp. Ren straightened his back and greeted.

"Thanks for the other day. I'm Rokuhara Ren."

He had no intention to aggravate the matter. He smiled cheerfully. In contrast Athena behaved with a queen's haughtiness.

"Fumu. I've seen you before. At that time—I felt the same presence of the princess I'm acquainted with from you and thought of it as strange."

"Hahahaha. So that was why you turned a blind eye to me at Kobe."

Ren laughed lightly without hiding anything. However, Athena haughtily—stared strongly at Rokuhara Ren with a drilling gaze and ignored his smiling face.

"You're a fool but, that's not all..... I feel that at that time and also this time too. And then sure enough, you are sheltering Princess Aphrodite. A really interesting man, you are."

Athena's eyes shined—as though she was seeing through him until his deepest bottom.

Perhaps his animalistic instinct to detect danger was working, because a sweat damply oozed from his forehead. Right now he shouldn't get into quarrel with her. Yes, he shouldn't right now, not yet.

He had to make some effort to keep up his inherent easygoing personality.

And then, Athena suddenly leaked out an implicating smile.

"Kukukuku. So this person is Princess Aphrodite's—new adulterous partner."

"Wha!? Refrain from any stupid misunderstanding! Know that this man is a cart-horse so to speak, an existence that is nothing more than a palanquin to carry me around!"

Stella objected in a panic. Athena lightly ignored her.

"Let's leave it at that."

"Uuuuu-. You, don't tell me you intend to spread a rumor about this matter in Olympus!?"

"How foolish. Do you think Athena will do such thing? Of course, when I'm asked about the relationship between you two, I will talk about it from my point of view in great detail though....."

"Yo, you don't need to talk about it, this pot head, dull-brained, two-faced woman!"

"? Are you saying that I, the goddess of wisdom don't know anything about the activity of love between man and woman? I'll ask you to stop with the false accusation. I possess thorough knowledge in regard to those matters too."

"Geez—enough. Now that it has come to this let's settle it in the battlefield!"

Stella declared with a resentment that she couldn't clear from her expression.

"I'll absolutely bring victory to Troia that I am favoring and thoroughly beat up the force of Greece that you are supporting! Prepare yourself!"

"Understood. Then, let's meet again in the battlefield."

Athena also responded with a scornful laugh.

"I'll also make my proclamation here. I will destroy Troia's army without fail and bring destruction to this sanctuary, in addition I will also guarantee that the destruction—will also reach earth without fail. O surface dweller,

the days your birthplace meet its end is also close. You better resolve yourself."

".....Wait a second."

For the first time here Ren stared challengingly at Athena.

"If you speak about [destruction] that easily like that, then it will make me want to support Stella too. I hope you won't forget that."

"Acknowledged, o man of the mortal coil. Then, this is farewell."

Athena transformed into an owl once more and flew away.

She left toward the boundary of night's darkness. The trouble still hadn't ended. Next after the hero Achilles, the goddess who managed those heroes was waiting in the back as enemy.

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4

A night passed after the confrontation with Athena—

Ren left the palace early in the morning and headed toward the city of Troia.

When he visited a plaza where a lot of stallholders gathered, it was crowded with people.

"There're a lot of people right from the morning. It's really lively."

"The living here begin with the sunrise after all. The people here woke up far earlier compared to us."

His company Riona commented. Ren nodded.

"Aa, certainly. The palace was also really busy from early in the morning. Cooking, cleaning, washing.....they're also working hard to grind the wheat into flour from the morning."

The female slaves were striving to grind the wheat into flour using stone mortar in a corner of the palace every morning.

Because if they didn't make wheat flour like that, they wouldn't be able to prepare the ingredient for bread that was the staple food here.

By the way, they could also make oat porridge by boiling the flour as it was. However, its taste wasn't something that the modern people would want to eat proactively. It seemed that the wealthy people of this world also preferred bread-centered food due to the same reason.

And then right now a nice smell was drifting in the air.

Pork was grilled in a certain stall at the open air market.

"My stomach is also empty right now, let's buy some snack."

"Agreed. Over there they're also selling grilled chicken on skewer."

"Riona, when there are options of goat, pig, cow, and bird, aren't you generally picking chicken?"

"It's simply my favorite. Right now I'm not transformed, so it doesn't count as cannibalism."

"I wonder about that."

There was a lot of choice to buy food from.

Meat, garlic, and onion skewered and grilled together. A shop with whole-roasted pig where only the part they would eat would be cut for them. Squid, sardine, or white fish grilled with salt. Fruit sellers that sold watermelon, strawberry, grape, figs, etc. Freshly baked bread. Wheat paste product that was boiled in soup, and so on—.

They also had war fund. They were awarded cash as reward for their achievement in battle.

In this world—Sanctuary Troia, grain of silver was used as [currency]. It seemed that even without paper money or coin, monetary economy could possibly exist.

Ren bought grilled lamb rolled with herb, and sardine grilled with salt that was put between flat bread.

Riona bought skewered wild bird meat with sweet and spicy sauce.

They each bought their own light meal and ate them along the way until they arrived at the city gate of the fortress city Troia. The gate was closed tightly when in the middle of battle. Today was also the same.

However, they showed a pass to the gate guard. The received this from the palace too.

Thus, the two Japanese people finally came out to the outside.

They walked for a while and arrived on a hill—at the edge where they could look down to the sea.

"Then as promised, let me show the map."

Riona stood on the cliff that commanded a view of the sea and pointed her index finger to the sky quickly.

Then, nearly ten white herons descended one after another from the sky. The moment they came until near her fingertip, the white herons—changed into crane origami in a flash.

They were the shikigami that Riona released right after they arrived in Sanctuary Troia.

She gave them the command to scout the surrounding geography and situation. They finally finished their duty and gathered at Troia where their master stayed.

"If what the shikigami saw is projected with spirit photography like this——"

The notebook that she brought from earth. Riona tore a page of it and lightly caressed the ground. There a graphic topographic map floated!

The bird's eye view of Troia city. The topographic map of the surrounding. It increased piece by piece.

What Ren especially paid attention to was——

"The shape of this sea and land, I've seen it before."

It was a picture like seeing to the land below from high in the sky. It was like a satellite picture.

Ren took up that paper and stared fixedly.

"It looks similar with "Mediterranean Sea and Aegean Sea" at our earth....."

"It just like I said before. Based on the relationship that the epic poem of Trojan War was modeled after the historical fact, the world of myth is also similar with earth in reality——"

Riona suddenly pointed at the coastal part of the Aegean Sea (lookalike).

"The city of Troia is located here."

"Hey, this is completely near the Dardanelles Strait!"

The point she pointed out reminded him of a corner of Turkey territory that faced Aegean Sea.

If he looked a bit to the east, there was also a "chasm" that looked really similar with Bosphorus Strait. It was a place that was considered as the border of Europe and Asia Minor.

"So that's why! There are a lot of variety of races in Troia because of this isn't it?"

Ren reached an understanding. The market just now was also like that.

People with black hair and black eyes that looked Latin-American. Fair skinned people with brightly colored hair and eyes. People with deeply chiseled face and thick beard. People with black skin. People with brown skin. Etc.

There was also three or four variety of language that they used. It was a city with extremely multinational impression.

"It's a world of Greek mythology, but this place is [outside] of that!"

"Or rather, the place name that came out in Greek mythology, like Peloponnesian Peninsula for example—there are quite a lot of place that is outside the territory of the modern Greece."

"Ah, is that so?"

"For example Caucasus at the coast of Black Sea. Thrace of Eastern Europe. The country of King Midas who changed everything he touched into gold was at the inland area of Turkey. Cyprus Island that is the land of birth of the goddess Aphrodite is also at Aegean Sea that is near Turkey and Syria....."

Riona smoothly mentioned various place's name.

"That's why Stella.....the goddess Aphrodite is an ally of Troia. She is originally a mother earth goddess that was worshipped in the land of Orient. She was "imported" to Greek mythology and localized into the goddess of beauty and love. It can be called natural for the goddess that was born to the east of Greece to support her [brethren]."

Thinking back, Japan was also a country that imported various religions and gods starting from Buddhism.

“Localization” to match them with the climate of Japan was also proactively done. Surely the same thing happened in ancient Greece too. Riona talked further.

"By the way, Apollo is also an “outer god” who originated from outside Greece’s sphere of influence. The war god Ares was also a god who was worshipped by Thrace and the equestrian tribe Scythia. Originally they were also gods that belonged to the orient, so they are allied with Troia instead of the Greek force."

This was the profound solution of the mythological riddle. There was a proper reason why the sun god Apollo turned the Greek army and Athena into enemy.

"Aphrodite is considered as a daughter of the chief god Zeus, but in the end she is just an[adopted daughter]. That’s also a great difference from Athena who is said to be born from Zeus’s head."

"So that’s the meaning of what Stella said yesterday."

Ren digested the various circumstances and reached an understanding.

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Now then. The cause of Trojan War was the elopement of a handsome man and beautiful woman.

But, there was a prequel that preceded it.

When Prince Paris who was a related party to the elopement was young, he was approached by the war goddess Athena, Zeus’s wife Hera, and then Aphrodite who we all were familiar with.

—[Who is the most beautiful among the three of us goddesses!?] They asked.

It seemed that the three offered [reward] for Prince Paris. ‘If you choose me, then this kind of special perk is waiting for you see’, they said.

Athena said "I'll make you the victor of every war".

Hera said "I'll make you the king of the world".

And then Aphrodite said "I'll make the most beautiful woman in the world into your wife!".

.....Honestly, it was a difficult question that would leave future trouble no matter who he chose. Also, it would be an utterly fraud choice by the time they offered him reward for his choice. However, Prince Paris wasn't your average person as could be seen from how he easily chose who the most beautiful goddess in the world of god was without dodging the question noncommittally.

"Hmmm.....then, it's Aphrodite-sama!"

Several years later, by chance Prince Paris met Helene who was a married woman. With the divine protection of goddess on him, the flame of love was instantly burning up. They took each other's hand and ended up eloping.....

Well, setting aside the gaudiness of his personality.

It was an episode where "a certain personality" of Prince Paris could be well understood. In other words, he was an owner of love addled brain who had no interest to authority, strength, or achievement—.

And then, when Ren returned to Troia palace together with Riona.

A meeting with the worldly man with slightly troubling personality was waiting for them.

"Yo Ren-dono. I'm just looking for you."

Prince Pairs called to them at the palace's garden with a refreshing smile.

The whiteness of his teeth was dazzling. It even looked sparkling. Also, the slaves following behind him were holding [a shield and a set of armor and helmet].

"It's decided that Achilles—that guy's armor and helmet are to be distributed to Troia's generals. As the person who rendered the greatest achievement, you can choose anything that you like from among them."

Shield, helmet, breastplate, left and right gauntlets and greaves, and so forth.

Each one of them was familiar. They were the equipment of the hero Achilles who died on the ship.

They should sink into the sea, but it seemed they were recovered. It was said that they were excellent articles that were created by god's hand, so the feeling of wanting to reuse them was understandable. However, Ren asked the handsome Prince Paris.

"Prince, you are the one who defeated Achilles, so you should be the first one choosing."

The prince must meant for Ren to take one part that he liked whether it was helmet, gauntlet, or anything else.

However the set of armor was still complete without missing any part. It was obvious that Prince Pairs hadn't chosen anything. The prince himself spoke calmly.

"I don't need any. I'm not interested at this kind of thing at all. Though it'll be a different story if it's a more stylish clothes or hat, or silk fabric."

Today Prince Paris was wearing a combination of tricorne with vivid red color and scarlet mantel with a golden necklace around his neck. His hair was also combed prettily.

His outfit was really showy. He must be paying considerably attention to his personal appearance.

"Well, I already obtained the [treasure] that is the most beautiful woman in the world anyway."

"Hahaha, I see."

Because that was the case, Ren stopped minding it and pointed "Then, this one".

"The shield huh! Yup. If Ren-dono who is blessed by the gods also obtained the shield, then you'll have nothing to fear anymore. I'll be counting on you again for the next battle too!"

Prince Paris laughed in delight and left.

"Farewell to you too beautiful miss witch!"

On the parting, he sent Riona a flirtatious glance despite being a married man. As expected from a notorious playboy. On the other hand, Riona ignored the prince's gaze and commented.

"As expected, that shield really left an impact after all."

"Yep. Its defensive power was absurd."

The round shield that he just received from the slave following the prince.

Ren stared at it in entrancement. The base was made from wood, but it had five bronze planks affixed to it. It was profoundly heavy, the glorious shield that protected the hero Achilles.

It was a precious holy equipment. To this Ren——presented it to Riona.

"Riona. I want you to carry this thing."

"Me!?"

"I still have a single Apollo's arrow. When I need the shield I'll borrow it from you. Besides——what I can do depend on the “friend” that I call at that time after all."

Rokuhara Ren completely wasn't a character that got into close quarter combat using sword and shield.

He should act as [reserve corps] that wandered around while relying on Stella and the Friendship Circle. That way he would be able to do something that was completely outside the expectation of his enemy and ally, perhaps.

"When it's time where the shield might be useful, if it's me I might run away at that situation."

"If only you don't say that, I would get a better opinion of Rokuhara-san as [a person who can make rational judgment without getting caught by the item amount before his eyes] just now."

"Hahaha. That's regrettable."

"But, certainly this is an appreciated suggestion. I will hold on it without reservation."

Riona's hand suddenly held a talisman.

The moment it was attached on the shield, Achilles's shield vanished with a puff. It was a magic that stowed away an item compactly using a talisman. Ren was admiring that convenience.

"By the way. The people of this world are passionate with recycling aren't they. It's also like that just now, and Achilles himself also stripped off the armor from Hector-san who he defeated."

"Taking possession of the armor of the brave warrior who died is a custom of Greek mythology."

Riona talked with a solemn tone.

"Like that they take the strength of the dead hero's strength into their own. It's also a kind of religious etiquette. Perhaps it's similar like cannibalism ceremony. By eating a part of the dead human, the power of that human become their own....."

"I see. Taking the armor means stealing the opponent's strength for themselves!"

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That night, his partner unusually began to talk from her own initiative.

"Ren. I need to talk."

"What's the matter Stella?"

They were in the palace's corridor in front of Ren's room. Riona's room was beside his. They were just about to part. He exchanged glance with his company and the two of them entered Ren's room—

"Actually in this place there is my "close friend's son"."

A beautiful girl with a size that could be mistaken as doll, Stella sprang out from the ground.

"He—Aeneas-kun is Troia's royalty and a general, so I talked with that child. He said that they will launch a large offensive to Greece army soon. The other side has just lost their strongest warrior Achilles, so surely it will go well."

"Certainly now that you mention it, this might be a good timing."

"Please wait Stella. Speaking about the hero Aeneas, he is an illegitimate child that the goddess Aphrodite gave birth to with her adulterous partner."

"Can you not seriously believe the strange rumor, bird girl?"

Stella dodged Riona's comment and immediately dived back into the floor. Ren crouched and tried touching the floor. He didn't feel his partner's presence at all.

"Looks like she is gone already."

"So she can also separate from Rokuhara-san and act independently....."

"It's safer to be near me, so I wish she won't do such thing too much though."

"By the way, about the Friendship Circle. Could it be that—it can't be used too frequently?"

Riona suddenly pointed out.

"If its ability can be abused, then summoning every god who can be summoned and demand useful item from them as tribute continuously..... will be the smart way to do it, and you'll also be able to stockpile items."

"Riona is really sharp. Actually that's true."

Ren had no intention to hide it. He easily recognized it.

"When summoning a god from afar, Stella's MP will get used up completely. Recovering from it will also take a lot of time. If possible she want to use it when having coincidental encounter with a god she has connection with or a god who looks like they can become friend right away."

Also—. At this time Ren was making light of his partner's outing.

He thought that even if she was the goddess Aphrodite, if she showed her face out of nowhere with that kind of appearance then she wouldn't be able to exert any considerable influence. However, that thought was easily betrayed.

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"It became something amazing."

"It seems that ships and soldiers are gathered not only from this city, but also from the surrounding city and town that are under Troia's rule as well as from the allied neighboring countries. It unexpectedly become a great fleet....."

Ren and Riona were looking down to the sea from the balcony of Troia palace.

A fleet of several hundred ships was massing at the open sea near Troia and anchored themselves there. There were also a great number of soldiers and generals gathered from outside.

The streets and palace of Troia became bustling with these reinforcement soldiers.

"To think that it will become like this in two, three days after Stella incited her "close friend's son"..."

"Perhaps the morale of Troia's side has increased higher than our expectation. Thinking back, the [myth's plot] is changing slightly from Achilles's death."

Riona spoke beside the impressed Ren.

"In the original story, Achilles died in battle on land and his corpse should be taken back by Greek's side. And then in order to grieve the hero's death, a grand burial and—a martial arts tournament is opened."

"Is it to enliven the whole Greece army just as I thought?"

"Yes. Furthermore the reward of the tournament is Achilles's armor. The equipments were distributed among Troia's generals before this but, originally it should be the heroes of Greece who reuse those equipments."

"And that advantage ended up completely at our side....."

Unexpectedly wouldn't the tide of war leaned toward Troia at this rate? Ren was harboring such expectation. An unfamiliar Trojan slave approached him during that time.

"Eh? The king want to meet us?"

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The name of Troia's king was Priam, and his wife was Hecuba.

However, Ren simply memorized them as the king and the queen. He would have no chance to call distinguished people with status as high as them by name anyway, so it was enough like that.

The king of Troia was sitting on the throne inside the audience hall. And then he spoke solemnly.

"Hero from foreign country Ren-dono. And the witch miss Riona. We still haven't fully thanked the two of you for saving our children the other day."

He must felt heartache after losing Prince Hector who was also his heir.

It was obvious from just a glance that the king of Troia looked really haggard. However, his eye glint was sharp enough. It was filled with the dignity of a king.

"I wish that both of you will keep staying in our palace from now on too. The treasured golden arrow of god Apollo in Ren-dono's possession, I wish from my heart that one day it would be displayed before this decrepit old man too."

The king of Troia praised up Ren highly before cutting into the case.

"By the way, there is a matter that I earnestly wish to discuss with the two of you."

"King of Troia. Can I ask you to allow us to also participate in the next campaign?"

Ren cut right to the case. He already consulted with Riona and made the decision.

A delighted smiled surfaced on the king's tired face.

"I'm grateful that Ren-dono would ask that. Of course, we fully intend to prepare the proper treatment and reward for the noble will that the both of

you displayed....."

"Your majesty. I have information that I wish for you to hear."

Riona spoke this time.

"Currently, the Greece army is staying at a large island of the adjacent sea. My shikigami—familiar has pinpointed the location and returned back. Allow me to report the location and distance in detail."

"Oo!"

It was important information that the military officers of Troia greatly sought—.

The king of Troia leaned forward from his throne hearing that we would teach them the information.

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The next day, a fleet of few hundred ships sailed out from Troia along with the sunrise.

One of the conspicuously large sailing ship among them—was Ren and Riona's[ship].

"I never even dreamed that I would become a[ship captain] at the world of myth. Ah, wait. I'm also entrusted with all these soldiers under my command, so am I a[general] now.....?"

"This is a warship, so calling you[admiral] might be better."

It was a ship with the size around 20 meters long in total. It was an extraordinarily large ship for a ship of the ancient time.

The crews served as both sailor and naval soldier, but not only that. They would become infantry when arriving on land and fought as Ren and Riona's hands and feet.

Furthermore, the officers and soldiers riding on this ship plus eight other ships were also added under his command.

He was a military commander that was leading a total of 2, 300 Trojan soldiers—.

Rokuhara Ren had changed that drastically in the blink of eye (of course Riona was also included).

A few hours after the departure. Riding the eastern wind, Troia's fleet sailed through the sea.

The weather was clear. Everything was literally smooth sailing. It was at that timing.

"Ren-sama. I have a report."

".....There is a stowaway? In our ship?"

A subordinate came to make a report. Ren tilted his head.

It was hard to think that a sailor who was also a naval soldier would be a gentle person. In fact, the person had rough look and manner. If someone like him found a stowaway, then it wouldn't be strange if he throw the stowaway out to the sea with no question asked.

However, someone like him came to report to Ren with an excessively conflicted look.

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"My, Ren-sama and Riona-sama!"

The person who was brought into the cabin was unexpectedly someone they were really familiar with.

The princess Cassandra. Furthermore she was wearing a mantel with a hood attached that was used for traveling coat. She was obviously looking prepared for a journey. She was the aforementioned stowaway.

"Could it be, you ran away from home?"

"By hiding in a warship? I think she is planning something more reckless."

Only the three of them remained inside the cabin. Ren and Riona whispered to each other.

On the other hand, Princess Cassandra seemed to be resigned. Her shoulders dropped and she said this.

"Actually.....I could see another foresight. A lot of soldiers will fall and sink into the sea while holding regret——"

There was something murky coming and going inside Ren's chest again.

It was a feeling that made him wanted to decide that the foresight Cassandra mentioned quietly as a suspicious talk. Riona beside him was also frowning. However.

Before his Japanese companion could say something, Ren hurriedly closed both his eyes.

It was to clear his heart and mind. Right now he ignored the welling up emotion. When he opened his eyes, Ren turned his usual smile to the tragic prophet.

"How does that lead to Cassandra leaving home?"

"Ye, yes. If no one can believe my words, then I'll stop forcing myself to tell my prediction to someone else..... In exchange, I'm thinking to do my best—to do something in order to stop my foresight to become reality no matter what."

The beautiful princess looked down while speaking words that were filled with resolve.

"I was unable to protect Hector-oniisama's life, but this time.....!"

"So it's something like that."

Riona suddenly muttered with a look of understanding.

"I felt baffled all this time. At that time, why did Princess Cassandra sneaked out of the rampart?You planned to protect your older brother didn't you?"

"Yes. But it didn't go well, so I thought to take revenge at least——"

The action of Cassandra at that time was backed with such resolve.

Ren also reached an understanding and felt moved. He knew that she was a brave girl, but to think that she possessed a heart this strong—he didn't realize it at all.

If she couldn't have anyone to trust her foresight, then she would stop the foresight from becoming reality with her own action.

Even though she looked frail and weak, she was a woman with amazingly firm core within her.

"But, as both of you know, I'm someone lacking in both wisdom and also strength. This time it might not go well too....."

"It's fine. I and Riona also will help you as much as possible. You can hide here in our ship."

Ren immediately assured the princess who looked depressed.

"After all if your family or the big-wig found you out here, you will get send back to the land."

"Is, is that alright Ren-sama!?"

"Leave it to me. Your foresight ability will surely become useful. Besides—putting me aside, Riona is smart and her magic is also perfect. She will do something somehow when we're troubled."

"So you dump it all to me there....."

"It's fine. I'm your [goshujin-sama] after a fashion anyway."

"Of course, I've already embarked in this ship with no going back, and our objective mashed with each other, so I don't mind at all but—. Rokuhara-san is really easy to get carried away."

"Bo, both of you, thank you very much!"

Princess Cassandra was moved to tears.

Ren smiled lightly and wrapped the delicate right hand of the cursed prophet with both his hands.

"Let me take this chance to say a bit more [carried away] words. You see, Cassandra. It will be great if your good act will be suitable rewarded..... I'm praying for that from the bottom of my heart."

There was the word karma.

This was a concept that applied not only to an evil act, but also to a good act.

Since they came to Sanctuary Troia, they had only seen [evil] until now. That was why the [good] that the courageous girl showed them right now was really beautiful.

May the words that are chanted after this become reality without fail. Ren spoke along with such will.

"A person who act in order to save a lot of life won't always obtain good result that is suitable for them. But at the very least I'll make sure that feeling of yours get rewarded."

"Thank you very much!"

".....What's the matter with you Rokuhara-san? You are using words that are unlike you so suddenly."

Riona was staring at him with an unusual taken aback face.

It must be really unexpected for her. Ren lightly laughed.

"Isn't it fine for me to act like that sometimes? Even I have time where I'll say serious thing. Of course, I'm also thinking of Riona similarly like this."

"I'm feeling sickened instead from getting told such thing so suddenly."

Ren smiled bitterly hearing his traveling companion speaking cruelly to him like that.

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However, both Ren and also Riona made light of Apollo's curse.

When they braced themselves to ignore the feeling of suspicious toward Cassandra's foresight, their mind naturally didn't focus to[the foresight itself] instead.

That was why, they carelessly forgot it until the abnormality began.

[A lot of soldiers will fall—and sink into the sea while holding regret]

The announcement of disaster by the tragic Princess Cassandra.

It started with storm and large wave.

The sea suddenly became stormy and began to shake Troia's fleet!

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"UWAAAAAAAH!?"

"The, the ship will sink at this rateee-!"

It wasn't just the sailors in Ren's ship that were making a ruckus.

It happened on all the ships of the fleet that sailed from Troia.

Even though the voyage was smooth sailing until now, a really bad stormy weather came without any advance notice. The wind blew violently *byuu byuu*, while the sea surface undulated up and down repeatedly.

Several hundred warships were shook up simultaneously by this stormy sea.

The body of the ship and all the people above the ship ended up getting swung left and right like pendulum.

The number of ships that got capsized also wasn't few. Naturally, the crews got thrown into the sea.

"This area is really far in the middle of ocean isn't it!?"

"It will be great if there is an island nearby! If there isn't any island like that, then the distance to land is something that absolutely cannot be traversed by swimming!"

Ren's ship—still hadn't sunken somehow.

Above the deck, Ren was clinging on the mast together with Riona.

The sea spray heavily soaked the crews on the deck and also inside the ship. It felt like they were swallowed into a washing machine. Everyone was already completely drenched from a long time ago.

All the sailors were panicking or praying to the god.

Well, that's obvious. No matter what they tried to do in this situation, there was nothing that a weak human could possibly do.

Also, the princess Cassandra was also holding on the same mast like Ren but—

"Aah!?"

The princess suddenly pointed at the sky faraway.

There were only dark clouds that suddenly enveloped the sky over there. However.

"Ren-sama, Riona-sama. Over there is the source of divine might that is tormenting all of us——!"

The girl with unparalleled ability of precognition also had excellent spiritual sense.

It was a revelation from the princess Cassandra. Perhaps because this wasn't an oracle, the usual feeling of distrust didn't well up. That must be why, Riona immediately reacted.

"Evil and impurity are to be chased and cleansed by water, Kyuukyuu Nyo Ritsu Ryou!"

The young onmyouji's hand suddenly held a talisman.

The spell that was written on it was [<ruby>千邪万歳、逐水而清</rt>Thousand Evils Eternal Life, Pursuing Water Raking Cleansing</rt></ruby>]. Riona threw this talisman to the air.

"Fly!"

The exorcising talisman amazingly flew for several hundred meters. It reached until around the place that Cassandra pointed at and——transformed into exploding light.

Showered in this light, there was a [shadow] emerging in midair.

It was a human silhouette. However, that was if there was a human with a height that reached 200 meter.

He was standing tall in the middle of stormy sea. Only his upper body from his waist came out from the sea surface. If the fact that he was

impossibly huge was ignored, then he would look like a majestic character at the prime of his life.

His hand was holding a trident. He was clad in a garment that looked like a gown.

However his upper body was wholly naked, so his muscular body could be clearly seen. And then his skin—was bluish black all over his body. Riona yelled.

"God of sea Poseidon! It seems he is the one creating this stormy sea! He is a god who support Greece alliance like Athena!"

"Then, there's no other choice!"

Ren immediately pointed his index finger to the sky.

"The last arrow, I'll use it now Apollo-san!"

If he delayed more than this, the damage to the ships from the stormy sea would only increase. Ren fired the arrow of sun god Apollo with even an instant of hesitation.

A golden light descending from the sky tore apart the dark cloud filling the sky.

It became a blade of laser and poured down on the sea god Poseidon's gigantic body!

[Gu—NUOOOOOOOOOOOH!]

Poseidon groaned in a loud voice from the sun arrow dashing over his chest.

He was in anguish from the heat and pain. The gigantic sea god grimaced and shook his head. Then his bluish black giant body—vanished like smoke.

Ren tilted his head at the anticlimax.

"Eh? He retreated unexpectedly easily."

"He might judge that it's an interference from the sun god Apollo and chose to retreat immediately."

Riona immediately told him.

"The gods of Olympus has internal discord at Trojan War, but they tend to avoid direct confrontation between fellow gods."

Accompanied by the retreat of the sea god Poseidon, the stormy sea rapidly calmed down.

The shaking of the ship also finally settled down. The sailors on Ren's ship also patted their chest in relieve. Well, there was quite a lot of people who got thrown to the sea from the chaos until now though—.

The person who the achievement of discovering the sea god, Cassandra was also relieved.

"Aa. Gods, I'm grateful!"

All the ships of Troia fleet that were safe must have seen the same sight.

However because they had got through that predicament—they let their guard down. The first one to fall into despair was the sailors on the warship located at the outer side of the fleet.

"It's the Greeks! Intercept them, the Greeks are coming!"

The whole fleet seemed to be washed away due to the stormy sea.

The area they were at was the place where the fleet of Greece's allied army was anchored at of all place. The force of Troia was cornered until this place by the authority of the sea god Poseidon—it was an ambush.

The raging waves of the great sea god in the end were nothing more than the prelude.

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"It's fire arrow! The ship is burning-. Put out the fire quickly!"

"Water—bring water he.....no good, we won't make it!"

"Jump into the sea! This ship is done for!"

The ships of the friendly troops around Ren and company were sinking one after another.

The cause was the great number of fire arrows that were fired from the warships of Greek force that was lying in ambush for them.

"Oops!"

Ren nimbly jumped to the side on the deck of his ship.

A fire arrow stabbed at the place where he was just standing. The flame was spreading on top of the wooden deck. Ren immediately sprinted agilely, running away from the second and third arrow that flew in succession toward him.

Riona muttered seeing this evasive action.

"Just like always, he is a goshujin-sama with good instinct only at this kind of time."

"I told you that's my redeeming feature wasn't it? More importantly, this looks really bad....."

They allowed the enemy ships to touch their ship and many Greek soldiers boarded Troia ships.

When it became like that everyone took sword and entered close quarter battle on the deck. Troia army who was completely exhausted after the stormy sea was in complete disadvantage.

However—

The warship of Ren and company met the hardship of getting sunk was because of another cause.

A general who was riding a certain Greek ship fired an arrow.

"The firstborn of Laertes and the king of Ithaca, Odysseus is paying a visit! Receive the attack of my glorious bow and become scraps at sea, horse feeders of Troia!"

It was a hero clad in bronze armor and helmet with magnificent body build.

Also, the speech of the man called Odysseus seemed to be filled with haughtiness. Although, the black and gold bow in his hand was a tremendously powerful bow.

The fired arrow flew like lightning—it pierced the ship of Ren and others splendidly.

Just a single arrow gouged open a large hole on the flank of the ship.

"A, amazing power!"

"That attack strength might not even lose against Achilles!"

"I once heard from sister-in-law Helene. Odysseus-dono is a wise man among the force of Greece, and he is also a master of bow!"

Riona was surprised by the arrow's power while Cassandra also yelled.

With a big hole opened at the side of the ship, it became disconnected in pieces and the ship sunk in the blink of eye. The ship's material became pieces of wood with varying size that were scattered on the sea surface—.

Of course, Ren and the two girls also fell into the sea.

It was the same like in their previous battle against Achilles. The three clung on a drifting piece of shipwreck similar like that time to survive for the time being.

"Riona. Let's escape using that magic that goes *pyu-* to fly in the sky!"

"We'll be defenseless while flying using that. If Odysseus aims at us using his bow, it will be over for us. More importantly"

The incarnation of the sacred bird Yatagarasu spoke fearlessly.

"If I can leave the princess in Rokuhara-san's care, then I'm thinking to act as the vanguard of the counterattack. Can I receive the permission to release my full strength?"

"Of course. I don't mind if you fight with everything you got. Also——"

Ren focused his mind and chanted the name of his partner.

"Stella. Can I request you something?"

"Hmph. It seems you like falling into the sea very much aren't you, Ren."

"My!"

Cassandra's eyes opened wide seeing the mini beautiful girl appeared on Ren's right shoulder.

But, there was no time to explain. First Ren exchanged gaze with Stella.

"I—the goddess Aphrodite is a goddess who was born from the foam of sea. That is to say I am the heaven-sent child of the sea. You are in luck Ren. If it's here then there is a good prospect."

Stella called to the sea with a composed expression.

"Come, my obedient beast. I ask you to protect these people."

A dolphin immediately came swimming from somewhere. It had a clever looking face and didn't seem to dislike it even when Ren and Cassandra clung on its body.

"If it's like this then I can fight without any worry."

Riona's both eyes—were dyed with fantastical blue color.

It was the proof of the release of her full magic power. The sign of her transformation into the golden sacred bird.

Even at their surrounding, Troia ships that regained their footing from the shock of the Greece's surprise attack—were finally starting to turn into counterattack.....

However, Riona's eyes suddenly returned to its original color.

"I take back my words. It seems it's better for me to stay beside Rokuhara-san and others."

One of Greece's warship was approaching this way.

On the bow of that ship, a girl clad in green robe was standing.

Silver hair that was like liquefied moonlight and shining black eyes. The tip of the cane her hand was holding had a snake engraving. It was none other than the goddess of wisdom and battle Athena.

Riona sighed.

"The ambush of Greece army this time is under the guidance of Athena as expected....."

"That's obvious. That woman is like this from the past. She will make a face of [I'm always composed☆] like a big-shot while forming sinister design behind the scene."

It was a valuable testimony from Athena's rival since long in the past, Stella.

Goddess Athena's shining eyes were completely focused on Rokuhara Ren who was drifting on the sea and Stella=Goddess Aphrodite who was sitting on his right shoulder.

It didn't seem like there was no other choice but to become prisoner like this for Ren and company.

Chapter 4 – The Captive of The Gods, The Awakened Beast

1

"Only them?"

"I also saw other woman. Want to try searching?"

"It doesn't matter. Look at this girl. Hahahaha, what fine treasure! I want to try tasting her no matter what!"

"Oo. Just having fun for a bit before she is given to those lords should be——"

On the deck of a warship of Greece army.

Cassandra was scared from the lewd gazes of the vulgar soldiers toward her. She only just gotten pulled up from the sea, so she was dripping wet.

Her wet clothes clung on her skin completely, exposing the line of her body.

The tight waist despite the breasts that possessed a volume that looked like they would burst from the seam. As the result, Cassandra's limbs personified a splendid curvaceousness.

Ren thought even while feeling troubled due to the great pinch they were in.

(It feels like the sale will be really amazing if this girl's photo collection is published.)

In fact, she was stimulating the animal passion of the men by that much.

The other girl who had concealed herself from here had slender body style that looked like model. If she was here, the soldiers would surely get even more heated up.

Ren prayed for her safety while thinking deeply.

(There is no Geneva Convention in this world. They won't even hesitate doing things like abuse, torture, human rights violation, or slavery to prisoner won't they.....)

Ren had no intention to terrify the princess. He kept his thought to himself.

Rokuhara Ren posed as someone powerless and incompetent. But, if there was only him here then he wouldn't refuse to take on the role as a knight. Well, along with Cassandra his wrists got tied up, so he couldn't do anything considerable but, at the very least—

Ren came in front of the beautiful princess with a casual footstep.

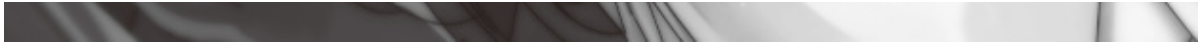
"Re, Ren-sama."

"Hide behind me."

Cassandra was surprised behind him. He lowered his voice and talked to her.

"If there are three or four more of me, I'll be able to completely hide you from in front of these guys, but that's impossible so this is the best that I can do."





"Ye, yes. Thank you very much."

He took on the role as wall that obstructed the gaze of the soldiers.

Cassandra guessed his intention and stuck closely on Ren's back.

That was fine. The problem was that the softness that felt *munyuu* coupled with the abundant elasticity was also sticking on his back. It was pressed on his back insistently.

Cassandra was gluing close to Ren so much that her twin hills were pushed on him.

"Hmmm. This kind of side benefit doesn't make me happy."

"? Is something the matter, Ren-sama?"

"Let's talk later when we aren't in this situation. You are a bit too defenseless. Well, I'm also not the right person to say that but, I'll say it in the place of your big brother."

"Ye, yes. Then, please teach me later."

It would be great if they could really have that kind of leeway later.

A tragic experience that he absolutely didn't want this pure and innocent girl to experience might be waiting ahead of here. Ren felt apprehension about that.

In that case, he wished to put his hope toward his "first" last ray of hopes but—

(Stella)

Ren tried to send telepathy to his partner, but he was shocked from the bottom of his heart.

"Eh!?"

A crowd surrounded Ren and Cassandra.

A girl clad in green robe was walking away with brisk steps from there. Silver hair and black eyes. It was without a doubt the goddess Athena. And then, the mini beautiful girl with height of 30 cm—the mere shadow of the goddess of beauty and love Aphrodite was within her grasp.

"Nnnnn-! Nnnnn-! Nnnnnnnn-!"

Stella=Aphrodite was gagged and tied with rope.

Although she tried to yell something, she couldn't make a proper voice. Furthermore, none the surrounding soldiers were noticing the two goddesses that looked really stood out leaving away—.

".....They can't see Stella and Athena?"

"Ren-sama. A simple camouflage is just like a child's play for the divine princess of the shining eyes."

Cassandra kept clinging on Ren while telling him.

As expected from Troia's Prophet, she seemed to see through Athena's identity in a glance.

But with Stella gone, the trump card Friendship Circle naturally couldn't be used. When Ren was completely at his wits' end, a warrior with imposing appearance came.

He pushed through the soldiers of Greece and came to the front forcefully.

"These people—are captured prisoner. Oo. Certainly this girl seems to have high status, the man with the strange outfit too."

Black hair and bearded face, large body that was clad in armor, and bow of black metal.

The hero Odysseus. The fierce warrior that sunk Ren's ship with a single arrow. He gave a strong and really forceful impression. His expression was brazen.

Even though he should be a brave warrior of the battlefield, he felt really seedy—

"He got an unpleasant face."

"What is it, Ren-sama?"

"I recalled that in the past there was this self-alleged entrepreneur uncle who brought a talk about opening branch store or something to Gen-san, my yakitori seller acquaintance in the past. And you know, that person drove Gen-san into bankruptcy. Perhaps, this man is someone who is good at talking completely like a speculator....."

Ren covered Cassandra who was openmouthed in confusion behind his back while staring at the hero Odysseus.

The middle-aged man with atmosphere of a complete ruffian stared back at him with a dubious face.

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And then, there was a person watching this scene.

The mast where the sail of Greece warship was put on. There was a blue swallow descending on its top to rest its wings. Of course, it was the transformed figure of Toba Riona.

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After that, Ren and Cassandra was transported to a different warship.

It was a ship that was conspicuously large even within Greek fleet. The total length reached 40 meter at least.

It was a size that seemed to be impossible with the ship manufacturing technology of the ancient time. But this was a mythology world. Surely they managed somehow using divine protection of gods, miracle, sorcery, or the like.

The guide was the hero Odysseus.

"I see. You are a noble of Troia, and this girl is your little sister you say?"

"Exactly. I'll contact my house and ask them to prepare a lot of ransom, so I wish you can give us two hospitable treatment."

Ren spoke smilingly to the bearded hero.

There would be nothing good happening if he acted defiantly. Even between kidnapper and hostage, it was possible for transient friendship to be established. Ren endeavored to make that happened.

Odyessus stood at the front while walking on the deck of the giant ship.

Beside him was Ren, with Cassandra right behind him. At a bit of distance away, the guards were following after them. With this it would be difficult to find a chance to jump into the sea for an escape drama.

Right now Ren and Cassandra were a target of attention.

Sailors, soldiers, furthermore even people who seemed to be general or hero with their beautiful armor were staring hard toward them. Or to be more precise, they were staring at the beautiful princess Cassandra who unintentionally stood out greatly due to her soaked wet body.

Ren sighed and spoke some words of restrain.

"Everyone is sending passionate gaze to my little sister aren't they? Like that person, it feels like he is completely head over heel for her."

"Ajax the Lesser huh. It'll be a different matter if it's his father Ajax the Great, but the son doesn't even have any considerable achievement. It's really outrageous for him to look like that." (TN: I checked in the google but it seems that Ajax the Lesser and Ajax the Great are not father and son. Anyone can perhaps explain the relation of these two to me?)

Odysseus spoke in distaste while going down a stair.

They entered from the deck where the salty sea breeze was blowing into the inside of the wooden giant ship. Several doors lined up through the humid corridor. It seemed that the ship was fully furnished with cabin too.

(If possible I don't want to enter the ship.)

If they were under the blue sky, his "second" last ray of hopes would be able to immediately come flying to their rescue.

Ren wanted to grumble, but Odysseus suddenly spoke to him.

"However, that girl. Your little sister. It feels like I have seen her somewhere....."

Cassandra twitched beside Ren and trembled.

If her identity as a princess of Troia was exposed, there would be no talk about ransom. She would be used for negotiation material as hostage with her royalty status. Ren laughed flippantly.

"She is a beauty as you can see after all. A beauty's face in the end looks similar with each other. Don't you think that those with a bit sexy face will look more unique?"

"Oho, yeah."

Odysseus nodded relatively calmly.

But, his eyes weren't laughing. He kept sending probing glances and stared fixedly on Cassandra's beautiful face. It was a sticky and oily gaze.

The princess of Troia looked down from getting watched with eyes that were abashedly lusty.

Was it really just lustiness? Or perhaps he had an idea about her background? Either way, it wasn't a good sign.

And then, Odysseus suddenly stopped walking in front of a certain door.

"For now, you can rest here. Troia's——"

"Call me Ren. My little sister's name is Riona. Best regard."

"Understood, Ren-dono. And also.....Riona-dono."

Odysseus grinned and then spoke while putting a momentary pause between his sentence. Ren gave him the slip with a wide smile and he made a request without hesitation.

"By the way, we are soaked wet like this. It will be great if you can give us a change of clothes. Setting me aside, I don't want my little sister to catch cold."

"Certainly. I'll prepare it immediately."

Odysseus nodded easily.

"Putting you aside, your little sister's treatment will have to be decided later by the discussion of us, the generals and heroes of Greece. It will be troubling if she isn't keep healthy until that time."

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"As I thought, we are being suspected."

"What is it that we are suspected about?"

"About how we aren't brother and sister. Well, our face isn't similar at all like this."

They were alone inside a cabin that served as their prison—.

I grumbled in front of the puzzled Cassandra.

It was great that he managed to ask them to release the rope tying their wrists, but he couldn't be optimistic at all.

The ears of the princess who descended from the bloodline of god were slightly pointy at the tip, and she was of a different race from Ren. And above all else, she had a trace of Hector in her—her big brother who had died and formerly the supreme general of Troia army.

(Her true identity won't be hidden in front of the big shots I think?)

If the recognition of the modern era that royalty=public figure was also applied in Troia here, then someone would notice Cassandra's background.

But, it would be boorish to say that and made her felt uneasy. Ren smiled.

"It feels like it will take some time until the big shots of Greece are gathered. So I think that we are safe at present. Let's rest for now. You also have to finish changing your clothes.

"Ren-sama is also the same."

"Of course, I'll do that later. But, you should change first."

They were still wearing their clothes that were soaked wet with sea water.

Ren was wearing the T-shirt and jacket that he brought from earth.

It was getting dry, but it wasn't pleasant to wear. And then Odysseus sent a slave bringing them change of clothes just as promised.

In order to carry out the principle of lady first, Ren sat down on the cabin's floor.

Like that he faced the wall and shut his eyes. Cassandra guessed his intention.

"Tha, thank you very much, Ren-sama."

Rustle rustle. The rustling sound of clothes. *Plop*. That must be the half dried clothes getting taken off and fell on the floor.

Ren's closed eyes naturally couldn't see Cassandra's changing figure—

Clack, clack! Bang! Sounds could be heard from outside the door.

Someone was taking off the bar that was used in place of lock?

Cassandra screamed at the moment he felt dubious.

"Kyaah!? Ple, please don't enter the room so suddenly-. Can you wait outside for a bit more!?"

"That request.....can't be fulfilled. It's just as I thought."

It was a voice of a young man. It sounded vaguely entranced.

Ren hurriedly opened his eyes. There was a warrior in front of the opened door. From his robust body, handsome face, and the magnificence of his armor, it could be seen that he was a famous hero.

Furthermore, a long sword was sheathed in a sheath with gold decoration hanging on his waist.

But what was the worst was how his gaze was oozing with rampaging lust.

His gaze was fixed on Cassandra. She had an immodest appearance after she had taken off her wet clothes and only had a waistcloth on.

She was somehow hiding her bulging chests that looked like they would spill out—.

"Since I caught sight of you just now, you keep staying in my mind all this time. I don't know which family a princess like you came from, but this is also a fate for both of us to meet here. Now you belong to this Ajax."

"Can I ask you to stop saying strange thing to my little sister?"

Ren immediately stood up and protested strictly.

"The big shots will be the one to decide what will happen to us so—uwaah!?"

"Mu.....? Brat, you're needlessly nimble."

The hero who introduced himself as Ajax drew his sword even though Ren was talking and slashed. If he didn't jump right away, he would be bisected into two.

"Ren-sama!"

"I, I'm fine somehow. Cassa—Riona, you get back here a bit."

Ren remembered. This violent youth was also on the deck before this.

He stared at Cassandra with an entranced look that was mixed with desire. The hero who Odysseus called as [Ajax the Lesser] spoke angrily.

"You brat. That girl has become my treasure now. This isn't your place to say anything."

"Don't treat a girl as object. Feel ashamed of yourself that is like an animal."

Ren's reply immediately ended up in vain.

Ajax the Lesser was young, handsome, and imposing. Even though he possessed numerous brilliant qualities and manliness, he was knitting his eyebrows in confusion at Ren's words. He was unable to understand the reason why Rokuhara Ren was angry, not even a bit.

(If I remember right, there is no chivalry in this era huh.)

Ren recalled Riona's lecture and it made him wanted to sigh.

Now that Stella had been taken away too, he couldn't use Friendship Circle to overcome this pinch.

He was truly driven to a corner. He was about to lose his life, while Cassandra was about to lose her chastity. How problematic. Ajax the Lesser stared dubiously at such Ren while—slowly raising his sword.

Naturally, it was the preliminary motion to swing down the sword like lightning.

Ren swayed his upper body left and right twice, thrice.

It was to unravel his body's stiffness so he could move quickly any time.

"You can't Ren-sama! If you face that person like that.....ren-sama's life will...!"

"Uwaa. That's your usual foresight isn't it?"

"Kukukuku. Girl, resolve yourself. Your brother or whatever this person is will turn into meatbag that is filled with entrails. He will sink in sea of blood. After that I'll play with you affectionately to my heart's content."

"Ren-sama!"

Cassandra was terribly worried and yelled with a sorrowful face.

Ajax the Lesser spewed out lines that were more fitting for pirate rather than hero while toying with his sword.

And then Rokuhara Ren was—denied the suspicion that was welling up in his heart due to the Troia princess's words while trying to ascertain the moment of attack.

If that hero moved even for a bit, he would immediately escape. There was his only choice!

"Uwaaah!?"

"Hmmm. Brat, you are annoyingly quick."

Ajax the Lesser let out a slash once more. Ren also jumped and ran away from the sword's tip with all his might. The young hero who was proud of his might looked displeased.

Ren desperately bluffed to not let Cassandra felt worried.

".....The fastness of my running away is one of my few good point. Hey you, I think you and me along with my little sister first should try having a leisurely talk here, first we should start with becoming frie——"

"Stop with the jest."

"Don't, that's dangerous!"

Ajax the Lesser swung his sword, and then, the tragic princess leaped forward.

That was right. Ren carelessly forgot. Cassandra whose [foresight wouldn't be believed by anyone] was trying to change the future with her own action—she was that kind of girl.

Rokuhara Ren was pushed away by Cassandra who tackled him with all her might.

Ren somehow kept his balance and stopped from falling on the floor, but during that time, the sword of Ajax the Lesser cut open the lovely prophet.

The wicked tip of the blade diagonally cut open the princess from her shoulder until her waist——

"Ah....."

"Cassandra!"

Ren yelled while forgetting to even hide her name.

At the same time he ran to her side. However, the anger of Ajax the Lesser was waiting.

"You bastard! Because of you this extraordinarily beautiful princess is dying in vain!"

Ajax the Lesser thrust his sword to vent his unjustified anger.

The area around Ren's solar plexus—felt hot.

He finally got hit in full by the hero's blade the moment he forgot to escape. Ren's consciousness was getting further without even any time for him to scream.....

At the last moment, he certainly heard "Rokuhara-san!?" that was the voice of his companion.

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Toba Riona transformed into a blue swallow and escaped the danger alone. It was so that she would be able to extend a helping hand from the sky when her goshujin-sama and Princess Cassandra were in a pinch.

However, the two of them were taken inside the large ship.

Riona avoided people's gaze and entered inside of the ship in her swallow form.

A wild bird flying around inside a warship was just too suspicious. If she was discovered, it was unknown what kind of treatment she would receive. It was necessary to move carefully.

(There isn't any guarantee that there won't be any hero or priest—who can see through my true form.)

She somehow found her comrades while feeling anxious.

A fully armed warrior who seemed to be a hero was holding a long sword that was soaked in blood. There was a pool of blood on the floor. A half

naked Cassandra and Rokuhara Ren were lying down in it—.

"Rokuhara-san!? Princess Cassandra!?"

The princess and her master kept lying in the pool of blood. No reaction. They didn't even twitch.

"How dare you!"

Riona=swallow charged toward the hero who committed this murder.

At the same time she began to transform. Toba Riona returned to her original form as a high school girl and onmyouji while continuing with a two stage transformation into her true form as Yatagarasu.....!

"Manifest!"

"Nuoh, what are you.....!?"

"I have no mood for talk. Receive the secret words of the sun and the punishment of the bird of fire!"

GOuuuuUUUUUNNNNNNNN-!

Riona transformed into a golden feathered bird with wing span that surpassed twenty meter while unleashing flame.

The inside of the cabin wasn't just filled with explosive flame. The punishment of scorching heat from the words of power, and above all else Riona's transformation into the large body of Yatagarasu—burned the large ship of Greece alliance army and destroyed it from the inside.

"GUWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!?"

The hero who stabbed Rokuhara Ren was set on fire from his head to his foot before sinking into the sea.

"Even rotten like that he's a legendary hero. He's surely isn't that soft to die just from that. But he shouldn't be able to return right away—"

She escaped from danger alone in order to reach out a helping hand sooner or later was around two hours ago.

She was given the command to liberate her full power from Rokuhara Ren at that time. It became useful like this, or was it really useful.....? Riona used her telekinesis.

The unconscious bodies of Cassandra and her goshujin-sama were lifted up.

"Both of you, we're escaping!"

The voice of Riona's human body came out from the golden feathered bird's beak.

However, the princess of tragedy and the overly carefree youth didn't make any reply.

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3

"Nnnnnh. Nnnnnh. Nnguguuuuuh!"

"Hmm. Princess Aphrodite, that is really unbecoming and immodest for a goddess."

"Nnguguguuuuuuuh!"

"It can't be helped. Then you can talk to your heart's content."

"A, aren't your method too violent even though you're Athena-!?"

Stella complained when her gag was finally taken off.

The partner of Rokuhara Ren and the goddess of beauty and love Aphrodite was in her temporary form for hiding from the world. She was

rushing through the sky along with Goddess Athena who was clad in green robe.

She was riding a horse carriage that was running in the sky.

The two horses pulling the carriage were winged horses, Pegasus.

And then flying right beside the carriage as a guard was the [Goddess of Victory] Nike.

She manifested with the figure of a lovely beautiful woman. On her back that was covered with white garment, pure white wings were growing like swan.

Stella stared fixedly at the goddess Nike who gracefully flapped her wings.

"So that girl is still acting as your henchman."

"Obviously. She is a retainer of me who is also the goddess of war and one of my other self. Our bond cannot be severed by all means except by ^{Thanatos}《death》."

Athena took the rein of the pegasus with a nonchalant face.

She was naturally lovely. She had the face of a teenage like Stella. And then, if this Athena was made to grow by five years—

Surely her face would become the beautiful face of “the winged goddess” Nike flying beside them.

It was just like she said, this goddess was another self of the goddess of wisdom and war Athena.

".....However Aphrodite. Thinking back, there is also no need to make Nike accompany me merely to look after you alone. I shall send her back to serve as Greece army's protector."

"Hmph"

Stella sulked hearing that composed words.

Although her gag was taken off, her body was tied around by a rope and she was laid down on the driver stand like a luggage. She also had no strength to be able to oppose Athena.

The goddess of victory Nike left from the flying carriage's side.

She was flying to the opposite direction of where her master was going. She must be going toward the direction of Greece fleet.

"Hey Athena. Can I ask a bit of question?"

Stella said still with a sulky face.

"I got tired of war and when I went out to earth, I experienced an awful disaster. But what about you, why did you loiter around on earth? You know, that time when you first met Ren and the bird girl."

"Why do I have to answer your question?"

"It's just to kill time on the way. As the person who captured the goddess of love, you have the duty to not let me get bored."

"Could it be that you're also acting spoiled like that to that mortal man?"

"Shut up-. This isn't related to Ren. Come on already, just answer my question!"

Actually Stella wasn't interested at all about what Athena was thinking inside.

She was merely tired of the present situation where she was nothing but a carriage's luggage and searched for a material to talk about. However Stella hurriedly intensified her questioning when Athena brought up Ren.

And then, Athena—muttered with a small voice.

"It was because I felt the presence of impurity."

"Eh?"

"Princess of Cyprus Island. Have you ever thought it? Right now, the world of the humans that covered the earth.....is unbearably noisy, ugly, dirty, and repulsive."

"Of course I've thought about it."

Stella nodded easily.

"Just like many of the goddesses are like that, I'm also someone with deep relation to the sea and land. And then when it comes to the surface dweller of this generation—I wonder how much they have to pollute the sea and wound the land before they feel satisfied? On top of that when it come to the ugliness and coldness of their city.....it's just the worst."

"Fumu. I never thought that my opinion will match with the princess goddess whose head is too empty like you."

The goddess of wisdom and war Athena muttered in complete agreement.

"As expected, in order to rinse the whole impurity, it's the duty of the gods to destroy the land where the humans are running rampant until there is nothing left."

".....heh?"

Stella was dazed for an instant hearing that absurd proclamation.

"Just now, you said something really amazing so casually didn't you?"

"I don't think so though. For anyone from the lineage of goddess that raise life and heaven and earth's nature, that should be the only natural conclusion that anyone would reach."

"There is no way that's true, this violent goddess!"

"More importantly Goddess Aphrodite. We will arrives soon."

Pulled by the heavenly horses Pegasus, the horse carriage was approaching "a certain place".

It was an extremely steep—mountain with a summit that was higher than even cloud. It was the place that was the nearest to the sky in this Sanctuary Troia.

Over there was a white palace with magnificent and sacred atmosphere.

Stella=Aphrodite also knew the place well. The god of sky Zeus, his wife Hera, Apollo, Athena, Ares, etc., many gods gathered in that holy ground—.

"Isn't that Olympus Mountain?"

Stella unconsciously muttered. Athena nodded "Indeed".

"Do, don't tell me you intend to make me into a laughingstock in front of the gods.....!?"

"How stupid. A trial will be held after this."

Goddess Athena laughed scornfully.

"It's a trial for judging Princess Aphrodite. A certain suspicion is placed on you. A suspicion that perhaps you have brought an unprecedented disaster into this sanctuary.....the world where my father Zeus is reigning supreme——"

"I, I'm suspected!?"

"That's right. The [Goddesses of Fate] that govern over fate and see through not only the past and present, but also the future reported like that."

Stella was astonished by the baseless accusation, after that she attempted to object.

But in the end, she shut her mouth. Cold sweat trickled on her cheek. Could it be, they meant about that. This—might be bad.....?

"It looks like you know what it's about."

The goddess of wisdom and war stared at the anxious Stella and muttered.

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And then, in a large hall of the palace, the twelve gods of Olympus gathered.

The prominent gods were completely present. The sun god Apollo, the war god Ares, their presence here was fine seeing that they were close to Stella. The “white armed” goddess Hera who was the queen and the second most influential person in the world of god too, although she had nasty personality, her relationship with her wasn't bad.

However, there were also people whose relationship with her couldn't be said to be favorable by all means.

The little sister of Apollo, the goddess of moon Artemis. Her former husband and the god of blacksmith Hephaestus. It also went without saying that Athena, the princess god of the shining eyes was present—.

The rest were gods who maintained neutral position.

The god of thief and messenger and sorcery Hermes. The goddess of grain and harvest Demeter. The god of wine and madness Dionysius. The sea god Poseidon.

Other than them there were even the gods and goddesses who weren't included among the twelve gods gathered here.

On the throne that was placed on the highest position—a majestic man at the prime of his life was sitting.

The god of the sky and the sovereign god, Zeus. The man who was an adopted father for Stella looked terribly displeased. He was directing a stern gaze toward his adopted daughter who governed over beauty and love.

(Thi, this is bad-!)

The moment her body that was only as big as a doll right now froze, Stella—twitched from feeling a “cold and hard something” getting thrust into her solar plexus.

Throb. Throb. Her stomach felt painful. Most likely the sensation was transmitted to her.

The wound that was received by the youth who shared flesh body with Stella. An extremely small part of that wound crossed over space toward her.

"Ren!?"

Stella yelled. Something not good happened to him and he was deeply wounded. There was no doubt about that. She had to go to Rokuhara Ren's side right away. However.

"Now we will begin the trial."

Zeus declared heavily. Goddess Aphrodite's trial was opened.

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4

The golden sacred bird Yatagarasu.

She recovered her gallant figure from her previous life far in the past. Riona flew out to the blue sky. Around her was the blue ocean. And then the Greece fleet was in the middle of sailing in formation.

She had to get away from here even for a second faster. She spread her golden wings and grabbed the wind.

Right after she rode on the sea breeze and started rapidly ascending—

"Damn monster bird, eat this!"

An arrow was fired from the deck of a warship.

Riona strongly flapped Yatagarasu's wings and sent out divine wind and telekinesis.

The arrow that came flying with terrific speed was splendidly sent away with that.

From the sky, her bird's eye ascertained the shooter.

Odysseus. The bearded hero who used black metal bow. He should be riding on the large ship that Riona destroyed and burned to ash with her flame, but to think that he had escaped already—

From his lack of opening and cleverness, he was a formidable enemy even more than Achilles as expected.

"As expected from Greece's wise man and strategist!"

Actually the driving force of Greece's victory wasn't Achilles, it was nobody else but Odysseus.

When Riona recalled the plot of Trojan War and felt admiration—*hyun hyun hyun hyun hyun hyun-!*

Odysseus fired six arrows in rapid-fire literally.

"I have no intention to accompany you with the bow and arrow that you're proud of!"

Riona greatly spread both her wings.

She caused a divine wind to blow once more, then she caught the wind with her wings and began to rapidly accelerate. In addition she poured all her spiritual power for the sake of flying. In order to make a distance of 1000 ri to become “zero” instantly.

Gyun! Riona=Yatagarasu became a golden light.

Like a comet rushing through the jet black night sky, like the first light of the dawn, she instantly left the shooting range of Odysseus and the Greece fleet.

"Damn you, so you know about the fame of my bow!"

Riona clearly heard Odysseus's vexed voice.

.....To speak the truth, Riona was hiding because of Odysseus's presence. Odysseus was a prominent bow user even in Greek mythology. If it was with his divine skill, even the greatest sacred bird of Japan was at risk of getting shot down. She was unable to show her figure carelessly.

Like this, the golden Yatagarasu rushed through the blue sky—

She was somehow able to escape until a safe area but.

"Rokuhara-san! Princess Cassandra!?"

She sent her voice telepathically toward the companions who she sucked into Yatagarasu's body to shelter them.

However, no reply came. Were the two of them dead just as expected?

She had to nurse their wound quickly. She was anxious. Yatagarasu soared in the sky like a flash—right beside her, a goddess that was flying with exactly the same speed appeared!

The goddess with pure white wings on her back told this with a voice that contained vague metallic reverberation.

[—O sacred bird who arrived from earth. Where are you going?]

"Athena!?"

The winged goddess's look was really similar with the goddess of wisdom and war. She looked around 18 years old.

She thought that Zeus's beloved daughter had transformed into a new form, but contrary to her thought.

[—Let me correct your misunderstanding. My name is Nike. One who is serving the princess goddess of the shining eyes.]

"So you're the goddess of victory, and a subordinate goddess of Athena."

Riona's human voice came out from Yatagarasu's beak.

"Do you intend to capture me!?"

[—Indeed. I will hand all of you to my master or return you back to the army of Greece. Prepare yourself.]

"No one here is going to follow what you're saying!"

[—Then, following the meaning of my name, I will stop your advance through victory.]

The goddess Nike easily kept up with Yatagarasu's flight.

The owner of white wings that looked really similar with Athena silently lifted up her right arm. In that instant, *GOUUUUUUUUUUUUN-!* thunderous sound rang out—

Eight lightning fell from the azure sky. They were moving toward the golden Yatagarasu!

"Kuh.....!?"

[—Goddess Athena is a god who is awarded with the lightning from her father Zeus. With that blessing, I can also control thunderbolt really well. You can submit before this scorching heat blade—what!?)

"God's arm Hephaestus and.....Achilles's glory, protect me!"

Eight lightning came down from the sky at the same time with eight thunders.

After they landed a direct hit, Riona=Yatagarasu was completely unharmed. It was because she manifested the shield that she kept in the form of talisman.

Achilles's shield appeared right above the flying Yatagarasu!

The silver defensive barrier spread out and repelled all eight lightning attacks. The defensive power was amazing as expected.

(I also thought to return it to Rokuhara-san but.....)

If she did that, the possibility that it would get confiscated by Greece army at the end was great.

However, perhaps she should let him to be the one carrying it in case of emergency—. While feeling frustrated, Riona unleashed the divine power of fire.

"O secret words of fire and sun, please purify and exorcist!"

[—Oo!?!]

Taking advantage of the opening from her shock, the whole body of Goddess Nike was swallowed by scorching flame.

As expected even for the winged goddess, easily deflecting the explosive flame that was called by the spirit of sun and calmly continued—was something she couldn't do.

She was swallowed by the fierce conflagration and her speed dulled. Her altitude was falling.

During that time the sacred bird of Japan reaccelerated. She left behind Goddess Nike right away.

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.....And then more than ten minutes passed.

Toba Riona descended on a small island and returned to her human form.

Most likely it was an unmanned island. Based from what she saw from the sky, there was no building like human house here. She chose a grove of mixed trees in the middle of the island and swooped down there.

Two man and woman were lying down below her.

Rokuhara Ren who was soaked in blood and Troia's princess Cassandra—.

Riona put up barrier of four gods.

"At the east is the god of river, at the west is the god of path, at the south is the god of sea, at the north is the god of mountain. I beseech so that every single one of you will ward off a hundred of oni and purify the calamity—. Kyuukyuu Nyo Ritsu Ryou!"

Four talismans appeared on the hand of the chanting Riona.

Each had the color of blue, red, white, and black with spell written on them. Seiryuu talisman, Suzaku talisman, Byakko talisman, and Genbu talisman.

Riona threw the four talismans one after another like throwing shuriken.

The talismans cut through air with *shuh!* sound.

The divine talismans of Seiryu, Suzaku, Byakko, and Genbu were placed to the east, south, west, and north edges of this small island to protect the four directions with a secret ritual. If it was the current Riona whose full might was liberated, this was enough to deceive the eyes of someone at the level of subordinate god.

A little while later, the winged goddess Nike passed through above the island but—

Just as planned, she didn't show any sign of noticing the humans below her. Riona was relieved.

"I can finally catch my breath....."

As expected, she was a grand onmyouji with skillfulness that could trick even god.

Riona reconfirmed that she was the second coming of Abe no Seimei. However.

The 《Law of Soul Return》 that he accomplished—the secret ritual to resurrect the dead was the only thing that she couldn't use. She might be able to do it if she tried, but that was a forbidden spell among the forbidden spells.

Even if she was a reincarnation of god, it was a territory that a residence of the world of man mustn't reach to.....

"Rokuhara-san, how pitiful."

The unconscious Rokuhara Ren—had his stomach deeply stabbed.

The bleeding from there was still continuing. Perhaps it would continue to flow until all the blood inside his body was lost.

A surprised expression was fixed on his princely looking face. His pupils were expanded.

"If you didn't intentionally butt into this despite being an amateur, you wouldn't end up like this..... You were really a stupid and hopeless person....."

Riona's voice was powerless even while she was complaining.

There were also a lot of times when she got irritated by him. But, perhaps, most likely, [the goshujin-sama of insufficient caliber] called Rokuhara Ren wasn't someone who she hated by all means——

Riona shook off her sentimentality and her slight discomfort before crouching down.

It was in order to check the condition of “the other person” other than Rokuhara Ren.

"Where did Princess Cassandra got hit?"

She couldn't find even a single scratch on the white and soft skin of the beautiful princess.

She had an unbecoming appearance with only a waistcloth covering her, so Riona could ascertain that in a glance.

Whether it was her nicely shaped breasts despite their voluptuousness, or her radiant back with whiteness as though milk was flowing on them, or her legs that shapely stretched out, there wasn't any wound at all on them.

"She isn't breathing....."

Riona touched Cassandra's cherry lips and her carotid artery to confirm.

Princess Cassandra wasn't breathing. Her pulse also stopped. However, the body and the beauty of the unconscious princess were unbelievably vivacious, even Riona who was of the same sex felt like she would be entranced by the view.....

‘Could it be?’ Riona's hand reached out to Cassandra's chest.

"Hah!"

She reached out wasn't because of something like lust toward female body. She applied 《Life Spell》 using her magic and blew vitality and life force into the princess's heart. Immediately after that.

"Kehoh. Kehoh. Ri, Riona-sama?"

Princess Cassandra coughed and she recovered her consciousness. She was in a state of apparent death. She only looked like she was dead.

"Your highness. Could it be, you made yourself to “look like you’re dead”? Did you use some kind of magic to deceive other people’s eyes like that?"

"Wha, what are you talking about? —That’s right!"

Princess Cassandra lifted her upper body that was still completely naked and yelled.

"What about Ren-sama!? I certainly saw it-. The future where Ren-sama is slashed by that hero—aah!"

Cassandra clung on Ren who was lying down soaked in blood.

Tears flowed from her eyes while she squeezed out a despairing voice.

"I, it’s just as I saw. So much blood is flowing out like this....."

".....Just now, what did you say?"

Riona pushed aside the puzzled princess.

Riona faced Rokuhara Ren’s corpse once more. She noticed the true identity of her “discomfort” from the words of Princess Cassandra just now.

"After death, the bleeding should stop when the body goes through cardiac arrest. And yet, Rokuhara-san is still bleeding. Even though quite some time has passed since he was stabbed in the ship——"

It shouldn’t be strange if his cause of death was excessive bleeding. It should be like that.

Riona knelt on the ground and observed the lied down Rokuhara Ren from nearby.

His pupils were opening with his face staying in the shocked expression. She took her goshujin-sama's wrist and put her thumb on her artery to check the pulsation. She concentrated her whole focus into her fingertip—

Thr.....ob. Thr.....ob.

She felt it. An extremely small pulse that felt like it would cut off anytime.

"He is alive? How!?"

Riona spoke her doubt first rather than feeling happy.

His solar plexus which was a vital spot was stabbed through. The amount of his bleeding was also too much. He wasn't even promptly given first-aid treatment or anything.

All the facts—were insisting that his survival was impossible.

And yet. Rokuhara Ren was still alive somehow just a step shy from the death's door.....?

Riona hurriedly put her right hand on his chest, right above his heart.

"Hah!"

She used the life spell once more. However, Rokuhara Ren's body didn't even twitch.

Normally, if this much vitality was sent intensely like this, the body would jump strongly just like when electronic heart massager was used.

Why didn't the spell work? Riona shook off her doubt and attempted the next method.

"Then, how about this."

On Riona's hand, a talisman that she kept in reserve suddenly appeared.

On the talisman she wrote two characters of [勅 令]^{imperial edict} written on it, then she further drew three dots and pattern that looked like ripple. It was a design that depicted the three stars that protected the Purple Forbidden Enclosure, a group of constellations in the northern sky associated with the emperor, also known as the Polaris, and then the Big Dipper asterism.

She transcribed it with ink and brush while——

Riona chanted every kind of spell of happiness and prosperity.

Increase of fortune, erasure of calamity, prolonging long life and happiness, prosperity for offspring, abundant harvest, happy marriage, ghost eradication, etc.

She put this talisman on Rokuhara Ren's chest and recited a spell passage.

"At heaven is the exalted god Hokushin, in earth is the spirit that is the exalted god of Chintaku talisman. Grant the miracle of secret mystery to my charm and please erase all calamity without exception!"

She applied the divine spell of 《Recovery Prayer》 as the most prominent onmyouji in Japan.

However, at this moment Riona clearly sensed it. The secret art of a great onmyouji who was comparable to Abe no Seimei was——deflected by the body of an amateur who was 98% dead!

"My spell doesn't take hold? What is the meaning of this!?"

"Ri, Riona-sama"

And then Cassandra muttered vaguely.

The prophet of tragedy's beautiful eyes——were filled with golden radiance. It was a light of magic power. Riona sensed it as a user of mystic technique. The girl had just obtained another foresight.

"I, understand! Ren-sama cannot possibly be saved with that kind of method-. Please—leave this to me!"

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5

A trial regarding an accusation was in progress inside the audience hall of Olympus palace.

It was a gathering in order to judge the [sin] of Stella who was the goddess Aphrodite. Right now in front of the sovereign of the world of god, Zeus—three goddesses were in the middle of a speech.

Atropos, Clotho, Lachesis.

The three of them were old women. These three sisters were called as [The Three Goddesses of Fate].
Moirai

They were also governing over the past, present, and future—which meant time.

"This omen had also appeared several times in the past."

"The omen of[beast] that bared their fang toward the gods. Us the three sisters spun, weave, and cut the string of time and fate days by days, creating the enormous fabric. And on that fabric today, a pattern was clearly surfacing. If this is left alone, sooner or later the world of god will be surely visited by disaster brought about by the sign of[beast]....."

"And then, we knew the past. When the beast is released from its cage eventually....."

After the one who governed over the past Atropos muttered, the one who governed over the present Clotho spoke, and the one who governed over the future Lachesis whispered.

"That beast appear from among the humans."

"The foolish humans who ought to die. However, very rarely—a human will receive the blessing of miracle and good luck, and by devouring a god's flesh and soul.....they transformed into a beast."

"By devouring a god's flesh and blood, the beast surpassed human and become something that is close to god....."

The three sisters of fate, the old women spoke one after another.

Stella who listened to that was secretly nervous all this time.

And then, the god sitting on the throne—the chief god Zeus looked toward her with a displeased look. He told Stella with a deep voice that was like thunder.

"A human who eat the flesh and soul of us divine being is it?Say, Aphrodite."

"Yh, yhes"

Throb-. Her voice was completely shrill because of anxiety.

Stella hurriedly made a flirty smile and started talking rapidly.

"Ye, yes-. What could it be, my lord Zeus?"

"Haven't your height shrunk really greatly from before? It's truly regrettable. When speaking about the goddess of beauty and love Aphrodite, she is the number one beauty in Olympus....."

Glare-. Zeus stared at Stella with an intense gaze.

"That's why. Can you show me your original appearance?"

"E, eeeh!?"

Not the current minimized body, but her grown up figure as a willowy maiden.

Of course, that form was exactly the true form of Goddess Aphrodite.

She could transform even more easily into that form than that bird girl incarnating into the sacred bird Yatagarasu—that should be the case. However Stella faltered. The one who summoned cloud, Zeus pressed her further.

"You can't?"

"Thaaat's.....today is a bad day you see. Besides, it is a special occasion where it's my lord Zeus who I will show my "true form" to. I will have to wash my body thoroughly, purify it wholly, and, right right, I'll need to apply perfume too and dress stylishly-"

"Uh huh. In other words, you're saying that you can't return to your true form."

"I, I only mean that it's no good to do it right away-. That's right. If my lord Zeus doesn't mind, can I please summon the servant that I brought here from earth? I'll need that person to help me with my preparation....."

"Why do you need that surface dweller?"

"Eerr....."

Stella couldn't make the appropriate excuse and fell silent. Zeus knitted his eyebrows.

"What a strange story. Even though you only need to manifest your original form as a god, you have to borrow the hand of a mere surface dweller. It's as though the goddess Aphrodite's important something—for example something that qualify a god as a god has been taken away from you. Doesn't it seem like that?"

"Lo, lord! A, actually that man of the mortal world has taken my divine tool the Girdle of Friendship and Love from me-"

"I know. And then, I also know how you can't use your authority of friendship and love without the permission of that man."

Stella gasped hearing Zeus saying that with a sour look.

Thinking that there was no way, she looked around her right away, searching for the face of her old acquaintance. In the end the sun god Apollo nodded back at her smilingly, while the god of war Ares returned a dubious gaze toward her.

First, the radiant sun god spoke refreshingly.

"I'm sorry. As expected when I was asked by Lord Zeus, I can't do anything except answering honestly. Even if I try to hide it, my lord is also a god of wisdom. The falsehood of my statement will be seen through by him."

"I was asked so I only recited what I saw without reserve. Did I do anything wrong?"

That was the war god Ares's words. He was a complete oaf in contrast with his graceful good looks.

Stella resigned herself. It was just as Apollo said. The chief god Zeus who stood at the summit of the world of god was in possession of terrifyingly varied ability and authority.

The power as the god of wisdom was also one of those. Poor falsehood wouldn't pass through him.....

"Now then. If for example that lowly surface dweller——"

Zeus spoke gravely.

"Devoured the flesh and blood and soul of the goddess of beauty of love Aphrodite, and stole.....the authority of friendship and love, let us assume that. What kind of existence that insolent person would become I wonder?"

The glance of the chief god was sent to the [Muses], the goddesses of poetry and literature.

There were nine of them. They sang poetry and left behind the exploit of the gods and heroes in the world.

The nine Muses who were the goddesses of poetry talked by singing from their mouths.

"Murdering a god, devouring their sacred flesh and blood and soul, to make them their own. The one who committed this grave sin.....also obtain the power that make the god as god, that is the authority"

"Surely they have obtained the right to challenge the god"

"No matter how much they are injured or hurt, they will return alive like an immortal demon god, becoming an even more amazing warrior, becoming an even more terrifying archenemy"

"Oo, gods of Olympus. Please listen to the warning of us Muses"

"The gods and godslayer are fellow bitter enemy who cannot live together under the same sky. Etch in your heart that such encounter will be the beginning of a battle where both sides has to give their all to the death, etch it in your heart....."

Right after the goddesses of poetry finished reciting, the god king Zeus let out a sigh.

"Now then Aphrodite. Let me ask you once more. Your original body and soul.....surely, they haven't been devoured by that man of the mortal world right?"

.

6

Riona was begged by the princess of Troia, Cassandra.

She asked her to leave the treatment of the dying Rokuhara Ren to her.

However, the great onmyouji who came from Japan who was also the incarnation of a god, Toba Riona—was unable to say "Yes, I'll leave it to you".

Her head understood. It was already hopeless from the beginning anyway.

It wasn't a bad thing at all to leave this to Cassandra, a person with supreme precognition ability.

And yet, the distrust welling up inside her heart didn't allow that. The curse of Apollo that didn't allow anyone to trust the foresight of Princess Cassandra. The distrust was its fault.

She wanted to drive away the distrust somehow with her willpower.

But it was impossible. In a stroke of bad luck, the time limit of the "order to liberate all her power" had just run out at that timing. With that, even for Toba Riona, she was unable to shake off the curse that came directly from the sun god.

The capability of doing such thing—far surpassed the realm of possibility of mortal human.

And then, perhaps seeing through Riona's heart.

Princess Cassandra immediately tore off the talisman from Rokuhara Ren's chest.

"Princess!? I put it there in order for healing——!"

"I know. But, for someone like Ren-sama.....who can rival the gods and the heroes equally, using it like this will be meaningless."

"Ro, Rokuhara-san can contend with the gods? What are you saying?"

This time Riona was in denial that didn't come from any curse or the like.

However, the prophet of Troia didn't respond to her question anymore. She was staring fixedly at the healing talisman. Then in front of Cassandra's beautiful face——

The talisman was enveloped with blazing fire and burned into ash in the blink of eye.

She must have used some kind of magic power. Riona recalled. In the first place Princess Cassandra descended from the lineage of god and a priestess with a capability that was recognized by the sun god.

The fire that was created from the talisman was still burning even now on Cassandra's hand.

The princess who manifested the mystery was only wearing a waistcloth. It was the same like being naked. Riona's gaze unconsciously got fixed on that beautiful and alluring naked body. In that instant.

Cassandra swallowed the fire on her palm.

Fire——it was the sacred spell of healing itself that was enchanted into the talisman by the extraordinary great onmyouji.

"!?"

"Ren-sama. Please receive this feeling of Riona-sama and I."

Princess Cassandra's body hung over Rokuhara Ren who was lying on the ground with her almost naked appearance. Then her magnificent limbs clung on him and she offered him her kiss.

The lips of the maiden that were like cherry pressed on the pale lips of the dying youth.

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"Hmph. Just when I wondered what it's about, so it's about the «godslayer» bunch huh."

The one who spat out those words in annoyance was the sea god Poseidon.

"They roamed around the world since who know when—the monsters wearing human skin. The warriors who were born using the flesh and blood of god as their seedbed....."

When Stella saw him at the sea before this, his body was so huge it pierced the sky.

Poseidon right now had a large body that was around the same size with a “large bodied human”. However, the bluish black skin on his whole body was the same like before.

Along with his little brother Zeus, the bluish black sea god was also a god with ancient age.

He spoke haughtily as someone with experience that far outdone the young gods.

"Certainly it will be fatal to underestimate the godslayer bunch. However, it will put shame on the name of god for us to shake in fear simply because they are the natural enemy of us gods."

The veteran Poseidon spoke with his inherent ferocity.

"Well, those guys are fairly tenacious, it's also hard for our spell to affect them. Their body and heart are also tough, and they can haughtily repel back even the mystic of gods. They're that kind of impertinent lot. But do you know? The trick when tormenting those godslayer beasts?"

"Hou? This Athena wish to hear that by all means, honored uncle."

Asked by the daughter of his little brother Zeus, Poseidon gloated ferociously.

"Kukukuku. It's the same like hunting. If you catch those guys, you can peel their skin or cut open their belly and apply your spell from inside their body. But even without going that far, it's also effective enough just by putting your hex from their mouth."

"I see. That's a good thing to hear. But....."

Apollo grinned. But the handsome sun god added more words with a dramatic tone.

"It will be great if that person can be captured that easily. But, that surface dweller, thinking back now, when he fought Achilles who was the swiftest person in the world of god.....a valorous warrior who can possibly rivaled even the great hero Heracles, he was able to see through his martial art to some degree."

Apollo exchanged a glance with Stella.

He didn't only hand over the arrows of sun, the radiant youthful god was also firmly observing the way they were used. The matter of Rokuhara Ren couldn't be hidden anymore.

Stella=Aphrodite resolved herself and immediately prayed in her mind.

(.....Ren-. At this rate, it will become something really unthinkable!)

And then at the same time she also casually returned a gaze to Apollo.

The unparalleled lady-killer in the world of god, and also the extraordinary ruffian Apollo. While he was a sun god, mysteriously he got involved with many dark and shady episodes—just what in the world was he thinking?

Stella wasn't a character who was really thoughtful, but she began to wrack her brain desperately.

Perhaps, this might become the key she thought.....

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It was hazy, but his consciousness was recovering.

He recalled the conversation that he exchanged several months ago. He was talking with the commander in chief of Campiones society. In other word with Rokuhara Ren's boss, Julio Blandelli.

(I see. So this is the unique constitution—that is said to appear in “the one who devoured god”.)

(What do you mean Julio?)

(Right now, your mind and body are brimming with magical power that surpasses every magician on earth. It completely repels other person's spell toward you.)

(Then, even though I can finally meet magician, I cannot have magic applied on me!?)

(Don't worry. It will work somehow if it's not a spell that grant [direct effect] to your mind or body. For example Ren, something like a magic that [transport you along with the air around you using telekinesis].But, if you feel like resisting it, even that kind of spell will be neutralized.)

Julio told him even more with a grave face.

(More importantly, spell like healing magic won't affect you no matter how hard I tried. In other words, you won't be able to be saved magically when you get wounded.)

(That's troubling)

(Well, it seems you also have the constitution of [impossible level of vitality as a living thing]. You won't get killed that easily. Make do somehow with that for a while.)

(Roger. But, I'll be happy if there is a loophole or something for this.)

(It seems there was something according to the ancient document. I want to discover what that something is as soon as possible right now.)

The “loophole” that was unclear all this time. Was this the answer—.

Rokuhara Ren understood the answer while being kissed by Princess Cassandra. If the spell was blown into the body through mouth-to-mouth, the spell’s effect would also work on him. An exceedingly powerful healing prayer was flowing into Ren’s body through Cassandra’s moist lips, sweet sigh, and her saliva.

The princess was industriously continuing the kiss for nearly five minutes already.

She was sucking Ren’s lips with extreme diligence and gentleness.

Of course, there was no way that she could hold her breath all the time. Sometimes her lips would part from him to take a breather. But, she would immediately kiss him again and resumed the supply of the healing spell.

It was a long and deep kiss. An exchange of lips between man and woman.

There were times when she would lightly suck *chuu, chuu* at Ren’s lips, there were also times when her tongue would lick his lips overenthusiastically, and there were also times when her tongue entered inside Ren’s mouth.

"Cassandra. You don’t need to go that far."

"No, Ren-sama. Without the authority that you kindly lent to me, I also wouldn’t be able to survive like this. I wish to repay this debt of life with the suitable recompense."

Cassandra’s lips parted from him only at this time and she whispered to him.

Authority. She already saw through even that. As expected from the girl with extraordinary precognition. Ren was deeply impressed with the magnificence of her power.

And then there was also how their distance was so close that he could feel Cassandra's breathing.

The mythological princess stared at him with an earnest gaze. Ren felt ticklish from that.

"It isn't that much of a big deal. Don't worry about it."

"It's a big deal. Besides I like Ren-sama. I don't want you to die in this kind of place."

He was told something like that by a mostly naked girl whose body was glued on him.

It was a situation where he must have used up all his luck as man. Of course Cassandra was a pure and naïve girl, furthermore she was raised as a princess. It was obvious that what she meant by [like] wasn't in the romantic meaning between man and woman.

That was why Ren spoke with a wry smile.

"Thank you. But, this makes me feel a bit guilty toward your big brother."

Right now it looked like he was being pushed down by a nearly naked princess.

However, Cassandra seemed unable to understand the meaning of what Ren said. She looked puzzled. Ren felt that purity of hers was lovely while he felt it.

From the depth of his body, strength was welling up—.

The injured body of Rokuhara Ren was going to recover soon.

He nodded to the kind hearted princess. Cassandra smiled joyfully to him.

And then, Ren finally sat upright. His eyes met with Toba Riona who had been watching what was going on all this time with a shocked look.

Riona didn't say anything in astonishment. She must be really bewildered.

"Hey Riona. Can I make a request to you?"

Ren spoke as a [beast] that had murdered god.

Deep inside his body, the lives and authorities of Goddess Aphrodite and one other goddess—had continued to exist in different shape.

Right now was none other than the time to use them. Ren grinned widely at Riona.

Chapter 5 – Olympus

1

At the first meeting with Rokuhara Ren who was wandering around the Southern Europe in a budget travel.

It seemed that Goddess Aphrodite who went out to roam the earth said this to him.

[The human over there. Submit your body for my sake.]

When the Japanese youth who was overly carefree talked to the magician Julio Blandelli, it seemed there was still the continuation of that absurd demand.

[You said your name is Ren? You can die for my sake. Do you understand?]

[Hmph. The likes of mortal man isn't that different from the livestock like pig, cow, or horse. It's one thousand years too early for a mere insignificant human to state his opinion to me. It's different if you're a royalty or hero who descended from the lineage of god.....]

Those were her lines toward the human who protected the goddess who was being chased by someone and even started to flee together with her so, well, as could be seen, she had really nasty tongue.

The enemy's aim was Aphrodite's divine tool, the Girdle of Friendship and Love.

Rokuhara Ren and the goddess who introduced herself with the alias Stella to hide on earth moved from place to place throughout Southern Europe as a pair of human and god that shouldn't possibly be able to mesh with each other, and during that time—

They became acquainted with Julio who was pursuing the mystery of the world of mythology as a magician.

And then, even that terrifying 《Goddess of Retribution》 also.....

[Rokuhara Ren is a godslayer]

Julio faced the note PC on his desk and typed the keyboard rhythmically.

He was typing the draft of the research report that was planned to be publicized someday among the magic society throughout the world.

[Aphrodite used his body to hide her divine tool. However, due to an unfortunate chance, the goddess fell into a critical state where she was dying. In order to not let her life return into nothingness, Rokuhara Ren unwillingly—"devoured" her flesh and blood and soul along with her divine tool in the end.]

[But he also had done a godslaying in a more significant meaning.]

[Standing on his way at the end of his extremely difficult flight together with Aphrodite.....was the divinity of retribution. The pursuer who came from the sanctuary Olympus of Greek mythology—]

Tap tap tap tap. Julio typed on the keyboard with jaunty rhythm. His hand stopped here and his eyes moved toward the clock on the desk and then toward the room's window.

The curtain of the window was left open. The outside had become completely dark.

Currently, it was past 9 PM at the small city Taormina located at Sicily Island.

Around this time it should be approaching dawn at Japan. More than ten hours had passed since Rokuhara Ren and Toba Riona entered Sanctuary Troia.

However, it was unknown whether the same amount of time was passing inside the world of mythology.

There was a case of one hour in earth was equal with three days inside the world of mythology, but there was also the opposite case where ten days on earth was nothing more than half a day at the world of mythology.

It was just like Japan's folk tale of Urashima Taro.

The speed time was flowing on earth and in the world of myth and legend was also different.

"What is Ren and Stella are doing at this time....."

He wasn't at his own residence, but a villa that he chose for his stay in Sicily.

And then, it was already late at night. However Julio didn't change clothes. He was still wearing a classy white shirt and slacks. If he wore his jacket then he would be able to go out right away.

Yes. This was only the natural precaution.

Because with the godslayer Rokuhara Ren embarking into the mythological world Sanctuary Troia, it wouldn't be strange for dramatic change to occur anytime.

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2

"Apollo. You mentioned something interesting."

Zeus's mood was bad despite saying that it was interesting.

The trial to judge the goddess of beauty and love was still in progress at Olympus palace.

"You said that the surface dweller Aphrodite brought here saw through the technique of the hero Achilles."

"Indeed, my lord Zeus."

The shining one Apollo smiled.

That smile contained not even a speck of cloudiness, but it vaguely looked like there was ulterior motive behind it—. While he was the god of sun, his smile was suitable for a "twisted person" who deliberately walked in the darkness.

"Achilles the Swift attacked with the godspeed that he was proud of. It should be impossible for a mere surface dweller to endure it, no matter how blessed with fortune he could be. Furthermore this person, he got up nonchalantly even after receiving the body blow of Achilles."

"Hmmm"

Zeus knitted his eyebrows. The sun god Apollo reported further to him.

"And then just now, when I questioned the rats that I sneaked into Greece ship as spy, that surface dweller also easily dodged two sword attacks of Ajax the Lesser. He dodged the serious sword attacks—from a hero that crushed a whole army of ten thousands by himself!"

"Hmm. His blade can cut even us gods apart if we let our guard down I believe."

Stella=Aphrodite was getting anxious hearing their talk.

The wound of Rokuhara Ren that she felt just now. That might be the sword wound from Ajax the Lesser. She had to go to Ren quickly! Stella was looking around restlessly.

However there wasn't any path of escape anywhere. The sovereign king Zeus glared at her.

"Now then. Hearing that this surface dweller escaped safely from Achilles made me recall a certain matter. It's about a while ago, a certain goddess departed from Olympus to chase after Aphrodite who was wandering to earth."

"I.....is that right?"

Twitch. Stella spoke while pretending to be calm.

"Uh huh. She said before vanishing, that she would chastise the goddess of beauty and love who perpetrated something bad.....those words reached my ear."

"Oh my-, is that so-"

"This missing goddess you see, in the past even when I, Zeus chased after her for fun—she displayed a splendid escape. Sometimes he would transform into beast, and sometimes into bird, running around heaven and earth. It's exactly because it was this Zeus who was the pursuer that she.....Nemesis could be captured."

Zeus suddenly talked about the past. In addition he murmured.

"If there is a surface dweller who stole the swiftness of Goddess Nemesis in escaping, then it's no wonder that even Achilles ended up having a really hard time. The likes of Ajax the Lesser won't even be a match of such an opponent, unless he's able to take advantage of an opening due to some unforeseen situation..... And then"

Finally Zeus let out a thundering roar.

"That [Goddess who governed over justice and divine punishment] isn't in Olympus even now! She left to earth in order to chase after you—Aphrodite, and then she hasn't returned even now!"

Stella almost screamed 'Hihi!', but she somehow held it down.

As expected, it concerned her dignity as goddess. However, she was gradually getting cornered into this predicament. To think that Ren's

existence would anger the chief god Zeus this much—

It was at that time.

Giiiiiiiiiiiiiii-

The audience hall of Olympus palace—its iron door was opening with a heavy sound.

"My companion should be here. Is it alright if I bring her home?"

"......Ren!?"

The one who entered from the door was exactly the person who was being talked.

Rokuhara Ren. The worthless human that Stella brought from earth. He didn't even possess thousandth of drop of divine blood in him. He also wasn't a hero or a great person, not in the slightest.

He was just a mediocre person who wasn't any different from livestock. A surface dweller without any redeeming feature, that should be him. And yet,

He devoured two gods and usurped each of their authority.

The youth who should be called as godslaying monster was smiling cheerfully with a relaxed stance.

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"You finally came, Ren!"

"That's because Stella was noisily sending me your thought. Thanks to that I immediately found where you are. Luckily I also have a comrade who can fly in the sky. I asked her to send me here."

Ren smiled at the captured Stella.

However, the companion who shared half her life with Rokuhara Ren spoke with an angry face.

"Aren't you a bit too late!? Do you know how disheartening it is for me to be alone in this kind of place!?"

"Hahaha, sorry, sorry."

Stella was unable to keep up her acting and her true feeling leaked out unreservedly. Ren apologized to her.

"I'll take you out from here, so forgive my lateness with that.
Though it doesn't look like it will be that easy to do that....."

Ren shelved his inherent carefreeness for the moment and said that.

A white palace was erected on the summit of the mountain Olympus that was towering majestically. A lot of people were inside the audience hall at the center of it.

Perhaps all of them were gods, or if not they would be something that was similar to that.

Ren quickly sensed that from the atmosphere of sublimity filling this place.

And then, a familiar large man advanced forward from among the gods. He was walking with heavy footsteps toward Ren who was at the entrance of the hall.

Bluish black skin and muscular large body. A wild looking bearded face.

There was no doubt. He was the sea god Poseidon who he encountered at the sea a few hours ago.

"From what I see, you're—the godslayer who got lost into our sanctuary huh?"

Poseidon stared dubiously at Ren and sniggered.

"Hah! Ridiculous. I can't feel any killing intent or fighting spirit that is peculiar to those beasts from you, not even for a bit. Now this is truly a seedy-looking beast!"

"I was also told that before. I think it's fine though, being thought as weak."

Ren wryly smiled.

"After all, I don't want.....to be talked as though I'm a killer like that."

"There is no way it's fine."

Poseidon haughtily approached Ren with powerful stride.

A trident appeared in his burly right hand. Ren had seen it before in a painting. It was the favorite weapon wielded by the sea god of Greek mythology.

"You see, even with your appearance you're still more or less a demon who has done harm to us the gods. Even if you're a small fry, if you don't at least act in a way that befit such feat—that's troubling."

"Uwah!?"

Poseidon suddenly thrust with his spear. Ren hurriedly jumped away from it.

The tip of the trident cut through empty air. But, the sea god's hands didn't stop. The second thrust, third thrust—unbelievably, seventeen thrusts were launched in less than a second!

It was a speed that far surpassed human limit.

However, Ren sighted all of them with an abnormal dynamic vision.

He seared all seventeen thrusts into his eyes while slipping through the spear tips—

"That's dangerous!"

The moment he yelled, he was already behind Poseidon.

He moved in clockwise direction and circled behind him. He used the footwork from the boxing that he learned continuously at his middle school and high school aiming for the sport scholarship.

Poseidon's spear didn't reach Ren's body.

His attack couldn't catch up with Rokuhara Ren's abnormal agility. Everything only cut empty air.

"Hohou....."

Poseidon murmured in admiration.

He didn't lose sight of Ren who circled behind him. He turned around to behind him and aimed the tip of his spear once more. He wasn't shaken at all despite witnessing the supernaturally [fast escaping speed]. He was really used with fighting.

Sure enough, Poseidon chuckled 'kukuku'.

"Godslayer brat. Your running away is really fast....."

"It's one of my few strong points after all. But, when I came to this world, I suddenly met with someone who seemed to be faster than me. I lost my cool there."

"Achilles the Swift huh. Certainly if it's you, you might put up a good fight against that person."

Poseidon looked around the hall.

It was in order to pressure—all the gods who were present here. He yelled.

"I ask all the gods! Assistance in this battle between me and this cursed godslayer is unneeded. I alone is enough to trample this little brat! I'm saying this especially—to my cheeky niece!"

The silver haired girl wearing green robe, Athena of the shining eyes.

The staff she was holding had vanished when anyone noticed. In exchange her hand was holding a long sword. She looked like she was going to move anytime now before this, though she had stopped at this moment.

"Absolutely don't do anything intrusive!"

"......Understood, honored uncle."

The goddess of wisdom and war replied in a bit of dissatisfaction. Right after that.

Suddenly—the scenery surrounding Ren changed completely. From the audience hall where the gods gathered, to smack dab in a marine blue sea water!

Ren was shocked "Eeh!?".

He was stepping not on marble floor, but white sand on the bottom of the sea when he realized.

As expected from the sea god Poseidon. He brought Rokuhara Ren into the sea in an instant. He couldn't breathe like this. He also couldn't move satisfactorily due to the water resistance.

And then, Poseidon was——

Charging forward like an orca or shark attacking their prey!

The large man with height more than two meters was so fast he could be mistaken as torpedo. Naturally, his trident also attacked Ren with the same speed!

(Wait, wait, that's unfair!)

Blub blub blub. Ren's protest only ended up as bubbles coming out from his mouth.

However, he was doing what he should do. Look. He was staring hard at the bearded sea god who wasn't orca or torpedo charging straight in the sea.

Poseidon's movement was just like a slow motion in Ren's eyes.

He saw him through. He could do it anytime. The moment he was convinced of that, Ren's body smoothly swam and slipped beside Poseidon.

[Hou! So your escaping speed doesn't change even inside the sea!]

The voice of the god of ocean Poseidon was heard clearly even inside water.

When it came to underwater fight, no matter how anyone looked at it, the other side was in advantage. Ren focused his mind. In order to heighten the power of divine mystery dwelling inside his body and heart—the so called magic power or mystical force.

In order to reject the effect of magic befalling him using his willpower.

"I won't go along with this kind of trick!"

Right after he asserted that, the sea water around Ren vanished completely.

He returned inside the palace's audience hall once more. Yes. He splendidly broke Poseidon's spell [transition toward the sea] that was affecting him.

If he was slower by only five seconds, the spell would become something that he couldn't negate anymore.

"Hmph. You're an impudent bastard just as expected."

Poseidon glared at Ren and spat out.

Even though the two of them were inside water, their clothes and body weren't wet at all.

"A mere human who is fated to die dare to haughtily brush away the mystical force of us gods."

"Obviously. We humans aren't the toy of you god."

"Hah. You're already something that isn't human since a long time ago, a godslaying beast. Hearing you talking like you are the representative of the humans—is laughable!"

As soon as he said that, Poseidon thrust with his spear once more.

Furthermore this time the trident was clad in golden splendor. The tip that was divided into three blades and also the long handle were shining gold divinely.

It was an attack that was had the might of bringing certain death applied on the weapon.

But, in that instant.

Ren also similarly unleashed his “strongest weapon”. His—Rokuhara Ren's right hand's middle finger and index finger were glued close to each other and they were thrust straight forward.

The approaching tip of the spear and Ren's two fingers clashed.

GiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiNNNNN!

A metallic voice as though two steels were clashing on each other and a yell of anguish echoed.

"GUuuOOOOOOOOOH!?"

"You know? I'm always doing nothing but running away and I also don't really have any redeeming feature. But because of that, everyone often..... misunderstand me."

Ren spoke indifferently. His right hand along with his index finger and middle finger were still held straight to the front.

And then, the sea god Poseidon. His muscular and large bluish black body was deeply stabbed by something on his stomach. It was a trident.

The weapon that Poseidon himself swung unbelievably gouged its own master's stomach!

"If it's duel or quarrel, it's not like I'm weak. Rather I'm quite strong.....no. Perhaps, I'm really strong I think."

"Brat.....!"

The angry Poseidon pulled out the spear from his own stomach forcefully.

But, he was a bit careless. Fresh blood flowed out from the three wound openings. The sea god gasped "Guh!?" in pain and fell on his knee.

Ren looked down at that blunder. Poseidon turned a gaze that was filled with anger toward him.

"You bastard, you deflected back my spear....."

"In the words of you gods, it's retribution. If it's said in the words of us human, it's cross counter? Anyway it's a technique that returned the attack power from the opponent exactly as it is."



In that instant——

The trident lost against Rokuhara Ren's two fingers and sprang back with *GIIN!* sound. It then vigorously rotated once and gouged the stomach of its owner.

Ren displayed a brilliant performance, but he was still only smiling indifferently till the end.

"You see, actually I have no intention to kill a god. But, a trouble befell me, so I used all my might to brush it off. Against anyone who will harm my friend and important person....."

Ren declared coldly without hesitation.

"I'll definitely take revenge on that person using everything that I can use."

"Hah! So you're finally talking in a "befitting" way huh, godslayer!"

The wounded Poseidon howled fiercely.

Then suddenly——Ren's partner Stella raised a lovely voice.

"O gods who is guarding the country of Troia together with me Aphrodite, you've seen it just now correct!? This is the power of my belo——no, the lowly godslayer who is serving as my servant, Rokuhara Ren!"

The belt that was wrapped around Stella's waist was shining with rose color.

No, it wasn't just her belt, her whole small body was clad in the same radiance.

"Because there is the favoritism of my lord Zeus and the harlot Athena in the war with Greece's side, the situation will be leaning to that side sooner

or later-. The chance to overturn it is only now. If you help Rokuhara Ren here, we will bring victory to Troia's side without fail!"

Ren's partner used the authority Friendship Circle as though to say that now was the moment.

Of course, to respond to this or not would be decided by the other party's will. If the other side didn't find enough attraction from Stella's speech, then she would only get ignored.

However, as though he had been waiting for it—a certain god laughed.

"Hahahahahaha! Way to go Princess Aphrodite, and also the godslaying beast-dono!"

The one who laughed in exhilaration was the radiantly beautiful youth.

The handsome sun god Apollo. He was an old friend of Stella and a god who protected the kingdom of Troia from Greece army. He called a silver bow into his hand.

"Indeed, you should use all your strength to brush away the trouble befalling you. And then this time, the one bringing trouble is all of you the gods protecting those people of Greece!"

The sun god turned his silver bow toward—Athena.

The goddess of wisdom and war also felt shocked as expected. She sharply questioned him.

"Have you lost your mind, o shining Apollo!"

"Have you forgotten? The authority of this lowly Apollo also included foresight and prophecy. To speak honestly, the fact that this time the Trojan War this time will end in defeat for the Troia's side.....is something that I have known since a long time ago. However, no matter what that plot is—not amusing."

The handsome young god grinned heroically and fearlessly.

Ren comprehended. Thinking back it was him who granted the foresight and curse to Cassandra. It wouldn't be strange for he himself to have foresight ability.

And then, Apollo pointed his hand to Rokuhara Ren and yelled.

"O gods who came from outside Greece like me! The intrusion of this godslayer is a good chance. Let's show our obstinacy and dignity to the gods of Olympus!"

.

3

"Certainly——"

The first one who responded to Apollo's encouragement was the ruggedly honest god of war Ares.

"In the first place the number of gods supporting Greece is a bit too many, our disadvantage cannot be denied at this point. The existence of the like of godslayer is annoying, however.....it's better than defeat."

The war god who was clad in bronze armor smoothly unsheathed his long sword.

Then, a beautiful goddess also nodded at Ares's words.

"I believe that the remarks of you the ferocious god of war and elder brother are worth their weight in gold. Very well, Artemis will also respond to that intrigue."

She spoke coolly with her gallant beauty that looked really similar with the sun god.

She was Apollo's little sister, the moon goddess Artemis. Her features looked even more clever and serious than even that Athena.

She was “a long distance arrow shooting goddess” who wasn’t at all inferior compared to her elder brother.

She called a golden bow and silver arrow into her slender arms and readied herself to fight too.

"You damn youngsters!"

The god of sea and land Poseidon gritted his teeth.

Because his stomach was gouged by his own spear, he was still kneeling on the floor. But, he somehow stood up while making an anguished expression.

"It's outrageous to intend to dirty this Olympus with the blood of you people....."

Athena's young face also turned stern from rage.

A rectangle shield appeared right beside her dainty body. The shield had a size that could snugly hide the young Athena's body behind it like a wall. Goat skin was put on its surface.

"O guardian deity Aegis that I borrow from my father Zeus, defend Athena."

Right now they were split into two camps.

Sun god Apollo, war god Ares, and the moon goddess Artemis who protected Troia.

Goddess Athena, and sea god Poseidon who backed the countries of Greece.

Within the explosive situation, both sides glared at each other with weapon in hand, holding back each other—and then the battle began as though it was only natural.

Ares slashed with his sword. Poseidon thrust his trident.

The siblings Apollo and Artemis fired their arrow. Athena fired lightning from the goat skin shield that she received from her father.

And then there was a peerless beauty who glared at Troia force.

"My husband, Lord Zeus!"

The queen of Olympus Hera. At the ancient Greece, compliments like white armed or eyes like gentle ox were offered to this goddess of the greatest class. She was enraged.

"As the king immediately bestow the punishment toward their behavior that came from their youth and foolishness! I cannot be patient anymore!"

Hera was the goddess who was the mother of the land called Greece. Naturally she was an enemy of Troia.

However, the chief god Zeus simply ignored his wife's voice. The king of gods was currently facing the bitter enemy, the godslayer.

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The gods were starting to strive to be the first to get away from the hall that became the scene of battle.

They must be the gods of the neutral faction who only watched the Trojan War or cooperated with both factions in a balancing act. Also, many of the people running away were female.

They were far more graceful and beautiful than human, looking like they were completely unrelated to such crude fighting scene.....

There was no doubt that they were gentle goddesses or fairies. Ren thought that.

Because of that, gods who were proactive in regard to the scuffle stood out.

Poseidon, Athena, then Apollo, Artemis, and Ares.

They were all famous gods whose name was known to even Rokuhara Ren. Among them—the king of gods Zeus was standing before him right now.

He was wearing a white garment that looked like a toga. His hair and beard were curled splendidly.

The highest god of Greek mythology spoke in a really deep voice.

"To think that the day would come.....that I'm facing a godslayer in our sanctuary."

"I also never thought before that they day would come I'll be facing someone like Zeus."

"Ren!"

"Let's talk later Stella. First, it looks like I have to talk with this mister Zeus here. Can you go hide?"

His partner was rushing here in small steps with utmost effort, so Ren said that to her.

Stella immediately nodded with a serious face. Her figure vanished with a pop. She “assimilated” into Rokuhara Ren’s body that could be said as her other half so that she wouldn’t become a burden.

And then, almost at the same time—

"Receive the judgment from my thunder, Keraunos!"

Zeus chanted a spell and fired lightning attack from his left hand.

It moved toward Rokuhara Ren who was less than four, five meter ahead. It was a super close distance. Furthermore the lightning was also flying in the speed of 150 kilometer per second. There was no cause for it to miss.

However, just before it hit—

Ren quickly jumped to the side and dodged the lightning!

Zeus's thunder didn't hit the godslayer, instead it blew away the iron door of the audience hall behind him with a thunderous sound
GOuuuOOOOOONN!

"Hmph, as expected. You can dodge even lightning."

The caller of storm and thunder cloud Zeus narrowed his eyes.

"Go forth once more, o thunder!"

This time Zeus fired nine lightning attacks all at once from his hand.

All of them aimed at Rokuhara Ren. And then, the instant danger approached him, Ren's whole body overflowed with magic power. His five senses were sharpened—

The movement of lightning approaching him with the speed of 150 kilometer per second became slow motion.

Approaching. Approaching. The lightning that was scattering sparks was approaching to him. There were nine of them. The distance until they burned Rokuhara Ren only left 50 cm, 40 cm, 30 cm.....

He completely saw through the attack this time too. Ren muttered.

"Acceleration device.....activate."

He used a keyword that he remembered from an old anime as the spell to activate his ability.

Just before the nine thunder hit him, he sprinted with all his strength toward Zeus's behind. Ren instantly rushed outside from the entrance that got its iron door wrecked up.

The lightning attack destroyed the wall with thunderous sound
DOON!. The sound thundered nine times behind him.

"Nemesis-san's power really has absurd speed....."

Ren muttered while running at full speed in the palace's corridor.

When he finished muttering, he was already outside the building under the blue sky.

He rushed through the inside of the palace in the blink of eye using reflexes and speed that could dodge even lightning. He went "outside" from the gate.

It was the summit—of the rugged sacred mountain Olympus.

A white palace was standing on the flat summit. There must be more than five kilometers from the audience hall until the outside. But, the time he needed to travel was only several seconds.....

Ren already returned to his normal speed that was only somewhat faster than the average human.

He stopped his feet and smiled wryly.

"Its only flaw is that it can't be activated if I don't look at the opponent's attack until the very last moment. But, if I'm able to use this speed anytime, I'll become invincible with that."

"—Hah. You're making a stupid misunderstand, godslayer."

A scornful laugh suddenly came from above.

When Ren looked up, there was a large eagle flying a few dozen meter above him. It was spitting out the voice of the sky god Zeus toward Ren.

"There is many way for me to finish off a mere brat who is only fast."

"Uwaah!?"

Zeus instantly struck with lightning. Ren screamed.

A golden scarab beetle that crawled out from underground without him noticing—emitted lightning from its whole small body at Rokuhara Ren!

"A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A——!"

His whole body was tormented by electricity. Ren was writhing from paralyzing sensation and intense pain and heat.

As expected he was taken by surprise from the insect that came from below him. But, even so Ren had strong resistance toward [magic that brought direct effect to his mind or body]. Therefore even this lightning attack most likely could only display several percent of its original might to him. It only granted stinging agony to Ren—

Far from giving him heavy injury, it didn't even give him a burn. That was how it should be, but,

"You're tenacious as expected."

Right after the large eagle in the sky said that, two streaks of lightning fell.

This time the attack didn't come through small tool like an insect, but a lightning that Zeus personally launched himself. The attack caused the whole sky to rumble and it had great strength that could destroy even a part of the sacred mountain Olympus.

Ren who was injured by the electricity from the ground—

Already had no leeway to even dodge the two lightning!

That was why he used his right hand's "index finger and middle finger once more. He pressed those two fingers together even while being struck by lightning, he folded down all the other fingers other than those two, and chanted the spell.

"The goddess of revenge Nemesis will pass down the divine punishment to misdeed that harmed life—! The calamity befalling me is none other than thy own agony. I wish for the judgment of justice to be carried!"

The result—the two streaks of lightning were deflected back to the sky.

Toward the person who fired them, Zeus who transformed into a large eagle and flying in the sky.

"NUOOOOOOOOH!?"

The large eagle was hit by his own lightning and fell unsteadily toward the ground.

On the other hand, Ren who was also hit by the same lightning was—

"Uuuh. As I thought, this is no good unless I dodge it....."

He pressed his chest and crouched down.

He was attacked by a pain that felt like his lung was stabbed by a short blade.

Even an attack that he failed to dodge could be reflected using Nemesis's authority. But, a pain that counterbalanced that damage would come back to him like this—.

It had also been confirmed that he would fall into a state of apparent death when the pain crossed a certain threshold.

It would result in fatal opening when he was in the middle of fight. Julio had repeatedly given him a warning in regard to its use, that he mustn't use it rashly.

"Well, thanks to this Cassandra was also protected, and this time I also managed somehow. It's fine to consider it as all's well that ends well I think?"

Ren muttered while his eyes were getting teary because of the pain.

The large eagle that fell in front of him—it transformed into a bearded man in his prime, the human form of Zeus. He glared at Rokuhara Ren with a displeased sour look.

"Your skill in escaping along with your use of divine punishment of retribution..... You've grasped how to use Nemesis's authority well."

"I'm honored to hear your praise."

Shred, shred. The pain as though his lung was pierced didn't show any sign of settling down any time soon.

In contrast Zeus looked healthy. Thinking carefully, even if he deflected back a lightning attack toward a god who was like the boss of lightning, it was hard to imagine that it would deal a large damage.

(Perhaps this is quite a pinch I'm in.....?)

Ren grumbled inside his heart. Zeus calmly stared at him.

"Goddess Nemesis.....do you know about the goddess that you murdered?"

"She is called as goddess of revenge by us earthling isn't it?"

"That answer is really close, I guess. The goddess of retribution Nemesis granted the righteous judgment to evil deed, blessing of life to good deed, and admonishment and ruin to hubris. Those who endanger life will have their life stolen by Nemesis's divine punishment....."

Zeus made a faraway look and talked in nostalgia.

On the other hand, Rokuhara Ren's chest was attacked by a pain as though he was stabbed but—it wasn't only in his lung, the pain was gradually tearing until his heart.

It was suffocating. His cardiopulmonary function was falling and he couldn't breathe well. He was lacking oxygen.

'Haa, haa, haa.' Ren was starting to feel anxious while running out of breath.

In contrast Zeus was grinning joyfully.

"And then the goddess Nemesis is also a master of escape. It's understandable. As a goddess of retribution who accomplish justice, she often got unjustified resentment directed to her. It was necessary for her to slip through danger."

"She also escaped with all her might when Zeus-san tried to seduce her wasn't it.....?"

"I guess such thing happened once. Well, it's a story of the past. It doesn't bother me at all."

"I think the side who got sexually harassed would speak differently though..... But Zeus-san, why are you telling me this.....?"

"No, it's nothing. It's because you're looking to be greatly in pain."

Ren couldn't endure the pain in his heart and lung and his hand finally pressed on his chest—

Zeus grinned and spoke really cruelly.

"What will happen to you if I wait like this? I'm thinking to ascertain it."

"You've a nasty personality....."

"What, if I attack, then it might get deflected to me by the authority of retribution. In that case, I'll wait for you to weaken by yourself. Consider it as being wise."

Ren smiled bitterly hearing Zeus's determined calculation.

"If you said such thing, then I too need to reach my hand toward my stockpile."

"How? What do you mean?"

"The authority of me and Nemesis-san, it doesn't only deflected back the attack when we get attacked. Actually we can also save it for later use....."

"What!?"

Ren glued his right hand's index finger and middle finger together in front of the surprised Zeus.

Retribution Nemesis, activate. He also chanted the spell for that.

"The phenomenon of future has its cause in the past. O fate, embody the entanglement of karma."

"—Ajax, the Lesser!?"

A silhouette appeared in front of the astounded Zeus.

A hero of Greece's allied army, Ajax the Lesser. The fierce warrior that endangered Rokuhara Ren as well as Cassandra with his long sword a few hours ago. This was a transparent phantom of him.

But, the phantom of Ajax the Lesser was—

Wearing a jet black mask on his face.

The masked phantom diagonally swung down its long sword sharply. It was exactly the same movement when he mercilessly cut down the graceful princess Cassandra!

"Nuuh!"

The sky god Zeus immediately manifested a wooden staff in his hand.

Using that he splendidly brushed away Ajax the Lesser's slash. His skill that dealt with a bronze sword without hesitation using a wooden staff showed how he was also a veteran hero.

However, Ren had also finished predicting that much since a long time ago—.

"—I wish for the judgment of justice to be carried!"

Ren kept the two fingers of his right hand glued on each other and wrung out his magic power.

In this instant, the figure of Ajax the Lesser changed further. Into a maiden with fluttering long ice blue hair whose face that should be a peerless beauty hidden by a black mask!

She wore a crimson dress and pure white wings growing on her back.

"Oo, Nemesis!"

Zeus's eyes snapped wide open and he yelled.

Yes. It was the figure of Goddess Nemesis who also descended on earth before this.

[Nemesis's avatar] that was materialized only at this time only to use the god's authority was still holding Ajax the Lesser's long sword in her right hand.

And then, from her left hand—a peerlessly strong lightning attack was fired.

"Guoh!?"

Zeus writhed in agony. He got hit by the lightning from Nemesis right from the front.

This was exactly the same lightning that he fired at Rokuhara Ren at the beginning just a while ago.

"Demonstrate the connection of karma, Nemesis!"

Ren chanted further.

The goddess of revenge that was wearing a mask and crimson garment swung her sword two more times. The movement was exactly the same like when Ajax the Lesser defeated Rokuhara Ren several hours ago.

Zeus immediately thrust forward his wooden staff while saying "Damn you!".

This staff was embedded with various gems like ruby, sapphire, onyx, and the like all over it.

It must be a treasure that was the proof of king that proved the rank of the god king. The long sword that Nemesis swung splendidly smashed the sky god's royal staff.

The gems were scattered and emitted sparkling radiance like falling stars.

And then, Ren yelled at this moment.

"That's enough, Nemesis!"

The masked goddess suddenly vanished.

At the same time, a golden sacred bird was flying from far beyond—.

"Rokuhara-san!"

The spirit of sun with three feet Yatagarasu, the transformed figure of Toba Riona.

Rokuhara Ren who came out from the palace onto Olympus's summit was grabbed by one of Yatagarasu's foot, taking him away to the sky.

"You're running away, human!?"

"That's the one move that is even more useful than the Thirty Six Stratagems after all, what am I going to do here other than running away!?"

Zeus yelled in astonishment. Ren calmly boasted at him from the sky. Together with the large golden sacred bird, he aimed toward beyond the sky while—.

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4

After Rokuhara Ren marched into Olympus.

Riona ordered a shikigami in the shape of “white mouse” to infiltrate into the palace.

She shared her sight and hearing with this familiar and observed the whole thing that happened in the audience hall where the twelve gods of Olympus gathered while heading there to retrieve her goshujin-sama.

Thus, Japan’s sacred bird rushed through the sky of the sanctuary.

With a large body that had a wing span over twenty meter, she grabbed Rokuhara Ren with one of her three legs. Riona soared powerfully in the sky.

On the other hand, the multiple shikigami that she left near the summit of Olympus mountain——

Sent her report through telepathy. Riona=Yatagarasu thought.

"They sent pursuer as expected....."

The other side also had a lot of [flying people], including the winged goddess of victory Nike.

She was at disadvantage in this game of tag with how outnumbered she was.

That was why Riona——had decided her escape destination from the beginning. When she ordered her shikigami to scout Sanctuary Troia, she also made them checked the location.

"That’s it!"

The space distortion point that was nearest to Olympus Mountain.

It was right in the middle of a plain, a vortex of light that manifested all alone. The assembly of countless light that also looked similar with M78 nebula.

Riona=Yatagarasu charged into it without hesitation.

Returning to earth temporarily to rally themselves there. That was the best plan for them.

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Similar like when they came through before this, they were passing through a space that looked like kaleidoscope.

Sanctuary Troia was still afternoon. It should be around the time where there was still a bit more time before the sun started setting.

However now the sacred bird who guided Emperor Jinmu was flying in night sky.

However, the light of city was spreading on her path. Different from Troia where they couldn't expect any night view, electricity and lighting existed at this side.

The tranquility of the night's darkness was ruined by the artificial light. It dyed the night in earthly affairs.

And then, there was a dark sea underneath.

There was a coastal city a few kilometers ahead. Riona was watching the light from it.

"There is no doubt, that this isn't Japan....."

The city's light was spreading only along the coast. It didn't look like a metropolis at all.

There were a lot of buildings made from brick. There was also a theater of ancient Greece—that had become a ruin through the passage of time.

She also caught sight of Middle Age Europe's buildings like church or cathedral.

(Hey Riona)

The "luggage" that she took inside her body seemed to be talking.

Surely the intense pain attacking his heart and lung had finally settled down.

(This place might be Sicily Island. It's near Messina Strait I think? Julio showed me the photo before I returned to Japan. He said there is also a space distortion that is connected with Sanctuary Troia here.)

Rokuhara Ren's carefree voice was audible to her ear.

However, for some reason Riona didn't feel like replying to him.

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"It's good to have you back, Ren."

There was a group that sent them telepathy from a sandy beach.

When Riona=Yatagarasu descended at their position, one of them spoke as their representative. He was a young man who still at his early twenty with graceful look.

"And you too, Japan's onmyouji-dono. Toba Riona, I have heard about you since before. That there is a magician of patron saint class in the land of the rising sun at the extremity of the east, and she is the incarnation of a sacred bird that is comparable to the immortal phoenix. It seems that the rumor isn't a mistake."

"I also know about you, Julio."

Riona called the other party's first name before he introduced his name.

When she returned from her large form of a golden sacred bird into the form of a maiden, everyone who was present on the beach completely witnessed her transformation.

Everyone was related to magic, so she thought that they wouldn't mind.

"The young commander-in-chief of the Campiones association which is a prestigious organization even in Europe's world of magic. A youth whose ancestor is Caesar Blandelli who was called the demon king....."

He was a young prodigy and a young noble of the world of magic. She also knew his face from the photo of his data biography.

Black hair and black eyes. His graceful handsome face looked somewhat exotic. He looked intellectual as well as elegant. It seemed he was residing in Valencia of Spain due to his association's headquarter, but the root of his family was Italia if she remembered correctly.

But, it seemed that he was really far from the image of the jovial Latin people.

Julio didn't even smile until now. He was staring at Riona with strong gaze and said this.

"It's appreciated that you know about my background. Then, allow me to also call you Riona. I wish to cooperate with you from here on."

"I agree, Julio."

"Wait, wait. Even though you're still calling me in a stand-offish way until now, and yet why are you calling Julio without any honorific right away?"

".....When in Rome do as the Roman do. It's a different case than with Rokuhara-san who is Japanese."

Her goshujin-sama talked to her playfully—she hesitated for a moment of how to respond to him before she decided to talk indifferently for the time being.

"Please be quiet for a bit. This is a talk between specialists."

"Roger. It can't be helped then."

"And so Julio. Will there be any problem if I consider that the people who are with you are members of the Campiones association?"

Hearing Riona's question, the young noble asserted "Yes".

Around ten men and women were standing behind Julio Blandelli.

Around half of them were Caucasian, while the rest had scattered nationality. However everyone had the peculiarity—the atmosphere, or style of someone who had mastered some kind of field to the limit.

They must be the “expert class practitionerMaestro” that the Campiones association employed.

There were also several faces that Riona recalled seeing in photo and the like.

There was user of binding technique, user of spirit vision technique, user of transformation technique, user of shooting technique, and user of barrier technique who should be acknowledged as the top class of Europe.

(If my memory isn't wrong, I think he is “The Illusionist” Aimar, “Baby Face” David, “The Flea User” Lopez, “The Gatekeeper of Rat”, “Clock User”, “Stone Gate of Basque”—or something.....)

Riona secretly searched her memory of their name and their alias.

Also, there wasn't any sign of people in this beach other than them.

Even though the golden Yatagarasu just descended from the night sky like in kaiju movie.

Undoubtedly the Campiones association had made arrangement magically and socially so that curious onlookers wouldn't unnecessarily approach.....

The leader of the organization Julio said.

"Our spirit vision user obtained the vision that said [Tonight, an abnormality will occur at Sicily's space distortion], so I summoned the nearby members in emergency. I don't know whether it will be a triumphal return or a flight in defeat, but I was harboring hope that the king of our association might return."

"Yes?"

Riona tilted her head, wondering if she misheard.

"Just now, did you said something about [the king's return]?"

"I said it. Well, after traveling together with that person for so long, it can't be helped if you think that it's unbelievable. But this man, Rokuhara Ren is the one and only—king who our Campiones association reveres. He is none other than the devil king who should reign over all magicians on earth.....that is what we believe."

Julio kneeled on the beach as soon as he said that.

The maestros standing behind him also kneeled simultaneously.

The one they bowed their head to wasn't Toba Riona, but the Japanese and the godslayer smiling carefreely and frivolously beside her.

Julio spoke toward Rokuhara Ren.

"My king, I'm delighted from the bottom of my heart with your safe return. I believe that your majesty must be tired from the expedition and deathly struggle in the world of mythology. Tonight all of us the followers of your majesty will serve you with everything we have for the recovery of your wound and strength——"

"That kind of treatment is making my back feel itchy so really, just stop it please."

Rokuhara Ren spoke in discomfort hearing the words that were addressed for a king.

"I can feel more at ease if you talk to me like usual."

"Understood. Then, I'll return to my usual attitude from here. Ren, I'll listen carefully to your report later, right now I want to ask just this one question straight away. That girl who isn't Toba Riona or Stella.....who in the world is she?"

Julio Blandelli stared at the beautiful girl who had been staying silent all this time.

The silver haired beautiful princess, the cursed prophet of Troia.

Princess Cassandra who was brought by Riona along with the Japanese born godslayer—.

She was surprised by the earth that she visited for the first time and by the conversation of the earth dwellers. All this time she had been opening her eyes wide while looking around restlessly.

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5

The place that Riona and others arrived at was a small coastal city called Taormina.

It was also called a western movie filming land with diving theme. But, the season was autumn. Even the beautiful sea was off season right now.

There was no stifling feeling that was common in a big city at this coastal city where autumn breeze was blowing.

Furthermore the “lodging house” that Campiones association provided was an extravagant villa of a high class resort area. It was very spacious.

And then—at the vast living room of the villa.

A strange act with Rokuhara Ren in the middle was currently going on.

Even though it was late at night, a banquet was being held with food for party that they ordered from a catering somewhere and a large amount of alcohol were placed on the table.

And then magicians were coming in front of Ren by turns.

"How admirable that you're able to return alive, our king."

"First is one glass, drink this."

"Oops. Before that drink up this wine from me first."

"Unthinkable. In respect of our king, I think the glass that I offer is the one that has to be emptied first."

"Well, anyway. Cheers for the demon king-sama who failed to die this time too!"

In front of Ren a lot of glasses that were filled with drink from wine until soft drink were placed. The maestros of Campiones association who brought them were laughing with wide grin, and they finally yelled [cheers] and began a cheerful merrymaking.

Rokuhara Ren who was more or less the main actor here laughed "ahaha" really carefreely.

"I'm also happy to be able to meet with everyone again. I'll also toast to all of you strange people who is calling someone like me a king!"

Should it be said that he was in his own pace as usual, or should it be said that he was someone who was unexpectedly broad hearted?

Even when he was placed at the center of the place as a [king] and got surrounded by maestros who were a gathering of ruffian although they were exchanging jokes, Ren wasn't timid at all and acted naturally.

Rokuhara Ren took a glass that was filled with golden colored carbonated drinks and lifted it high.

The magicians also lifted their glass and cheered at the [king's speech].

On the other hand, Cassandra was suddenly apologizing beside Ren.

"My deepest apologies, Ren-sama! I have done something really rude!"

"Eh, no way. Why do you think so?"

The princess of world of mythology spoke further toward the wide-eyed "godslayer".

"I've never noticed that Ren-sama is a person who has this kind of worship offered to you as a king of a country. And I myself dared to think something like [he is like my Onii-sama] about Ren-sama....."

"Hahahaha. For me rather than being suddenly called as king like this"

Rokuhara Ren spoke similingly.

"Being called [Onii-sama] by Cassandra is 100 times happier."

"The, there is no way that's true-"

"I'm being honest. Besides, recently I often got called as king or demon king but, I don't even remember being something like that. Even if old grandpa or uncle who is half century older than me is acting humble to me, it just made me felt uncomfortable instead....."

Rokuhara Ren said that and stared at his "retainers" who were slightly getting carried away.

"If I'm going to get treated like a king, then this kind of atmosphere is just right."

The magicians of Campiones association all laughed.

The people in this business world whether they were western or eastern were mostly unsociable but——

At a corner of that villa's living room that was too spacious, Toba Riona was staring at the going on from start to finish. She murmured to herself.

"Rokuhara-san is really fitting in....."

"For better or worse, he has a personality that don't provoke other people's wariness after all."

The one who answered her was Julio Blandelli beside Riona.

He also become a wallflower who observed the "demon king and his followers".

"In addition, when it came to the man who murdered a god and stole their authority, even the guys of our association can't help but to recognize him."

"So, there is really no doubt that his strength originated from god?"

"That's an unthinkable statement coming from the second coming of Abe no Seimei and the incarnation of the bird of fire. If the rumor about you is right, than Toba Riona should be the one able to understand that guy's true nature more than anyone....."

".....You will get hated if you carelessly show off your astute perception you know, Julio."

"Pardon me."

"This is a good time to change the topic. Rokuhara Ren-san's authority of retribution. The true essence of that authority is[being able to deflect back the attack toward him at the timing that he like] isn't it? His running away become fast is just an additional gain instead."

"Correct. It seems that "clearly seeing" the opponent's attack is important. As long as he can do that, he can cut through predicament without any damage and save up the power of retribution like a mirage."

"And then it can also protect a designated someone, not just himself....."

"Yeah. It's a divine protection that can only be used once before running out. Using it won't result in anything good, so I warned him to not use it if it's not a situation that will give him a really big gain, but"

Julio shrugged his shoulder. Ahead of his gaze there was Princess Cassandra.

The reason how she survived being cut down by Ajax the Lesser. It was the[divine protection of retribution] from Rokuhara Ren. Riona murmured.

"Perhaps Rokuhara-san has forgotten that warning....."

"He is completely not paying attention to my warning."

Beside Rokuhara Ren, Cassandra was trying a glass of champagne.

It seemed that a drink filled with carbonate was unusual to her. They could see her reaching out to a glass that was put in front of Ren following her curiosity.

She copied the magicians who were gulping down their glasses repeatedly and emptied her glass in one go.

Princess Cassandra's beautiful face immediately turned bright red in drunkenness—. Rokuhara Ren was flustered trying to nurse the beautiful princess whose awareness was dim.

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And then, several hours passed.

There were only Riona, Princess Cassandra, Rokuhara Ren, and Julio Blandelly staying in the villa. The other magicians were leaving.

Each of the four was assigned their own bedroom. They would rest until morning—but.

Riona opened her eyes after sleeping for three hours.

It was still dawn. The sky had only begun to get bright outside the window. But perhaps she was going through “jet-lag” due to having only returned from the mythology world, she didn’t feel like she could sleep longer than this.

She changed into her usual blazer and left the villa.

The location was at the coast. The sandy beach was dyed in rose color by the sunlight of the rising sun. While she was walking trudgingly on there—

"Where are you going, Riona?"

When she turned around, her temporary goshujin-sama was there. Riona glared coldly at him.

"This stalking act that is starting from dawn, you’re quite the pervert Rokuhara-san."

"I could see Riona going outside from the window, it made me want to talk to you."

Even the cold treatment of a high school girl and a great onmyouji didn’t perturb Rokuhara Ren at the slightest.

"And about that. Can I ask the reason?"

"What reason?"

"The reason why you’re cold to me since yesterday."

"That’s obviously because of your insensitivity like how you intentionally came to ask me that at this late!"

"Aah. In other words you dislike how I was hiding a power of god."

"You already understand!"

"I'm not insensitive, I'm merely not bothering with the place's atmosphere. Because I think there is also times when it's better to openly speak without reservation even thing that is hard to ask or hard to say!"

Ren carefreely made a thumb up. Riona glared with a stern gaze.

"That personality is irritating, but your statement that is full of nonsense is even more so-. What do you mean by [I don't really have any redeeming feature] at the start!?"

"I'm not lying. I'm a human without any particular expertise or knowledge after all."

"I'm amazed that the person who stole god's authority and can fight even the gods in earnest can say that with a straight face....."

Riona who was tired of getting angry scowled at Ren this time with a low voice.

Then young man Rokuhara pondered with "Hmmm".

"It's not like the power of the gods is something that I learned through effort. I snatched them in a way that's like foul play, so as expected it shouldn't be counted as my special skill. Well yeah, when "it became like that" it was really terrible but, in the end this is something that belong to other people."

"Tha, that is really something of good manner you're saying there....."

"My grandma was a really old fashioned and strict person. She often told me. [Are you listening Ren, don't drink stolen water even when you're thirsty], thing like that."

Here Rokuhara Ren's expression turned unusually serious. He muttered solemnly.

"Nothing will be solved using violence. No matter what reason you have, the one who raised their fist first is the loser. No matter what kind of person

you face, interact with them in good faith.....everything is taught to me by grandma."

"Despite that Rokuhara-san was"

Riona wasn't deceived by his seriousness and retorted calmly.

"You calculatingly took Achilles's shield, fired Apollow's arrows like there is no tomorrow, and did whatever you like in the mythology world though."

"About that you know, you can't make an omelet without breaking eggs."

The Japanese who killed even god laughed without any guilt.

"I'll respect grandma's teaching as much as possible but, I also have to face reality properly."

When Rokuhara Ren opened his mouth, only stupid statement came out.

However, when it was time to move his body—it was an expression that she didn't want to use lightly but, sharpness that should be called as natural gift could be felt greatly from him. The person himself only stated that [he was relatively good in physical workout], but his physical ability wasn't at such level.

The sharpness of his movement, his sense of rhythm, his reflex, his agility that was worthy of admiration.....

Well, he was a person who didn't provoke other person's wariness and wouldn't let other be aware of that aspect of his.

However, when that exterior was torn away, the true nature of an absurd [monster] became exposed. Riona felt such hunch,

When push came to shove, this man would set aside even his blood relative's teaching or moral standard and fought even god.

He would friendly interact with even people of another world without being bothered by the gap of language or culture. It felt like the carefreeness of his rhythm would deceive her against her better judgment but..... Here Riona gasped.

"Ah"

"What's wrong Riona?"

"I, I noticed it this late. In the first place Rokuhara-san, you were talking normally with the other world people at the other side normally since the beginning weren't you-!?"

"That's right but, that's not really strange isn't it?"

The young godslayer was still carefree in response to the great onmyouji who asked in a rush.

"It was the same for Riona, and even Cassandra too. That girl, she understand the content of the talk properly when all the people around her is talking in Spain."

"In my case it's because I can use the magic of multilingual learning, while the princess is a superhuman who descended from the bloodline of god!"

Riona immediately declared.

"Someone who arrived at such spiritually high stage can learn even unknown language in extremely short period by sharpening their soul. They can easily achieve communication of foreign culture-. That's also the case with Rokuhara-san who is a godslayer right!?"

"Now that you mentioned it, Julio also told me the same thing."

Ren easily nodded.

"Right after I won against Nemesis-san, I suddenly became able to understand Spain language. I thought it was strange and tried asking about

it."

"I, if only I noticed that, then I wouldn't get tricked by your suspicious personal statements-"

"Hahahaha. Riona, sometimes you're actually quite the birdbrain aren't you?"

"Kuh.....! Amazing work in noticing the top secret that most humans cannot see through, even though you're just Rokuhara-san!"

Riona's face was beet red and she complained.

"What an irritating goshujin-sama!"

"Yes yes, about that Riona"

His face turned serious in a complete turnaround from his carefree mood until now.

"The promise to guide me as my exclusive guide, is that still valid?"

Riona was surprised "!" at the sudden question. Rokuhara Ren talked further to her.

"I need you. I want to bring Cassandra home, I also have to change the plot of the myth of Troia's downfall. I'll have to confront Zeus and Athena and others without a doubt at the other side..... I think I'll have my hand a bit too full doing that alone."

"But Rokuhara-san. You have your subordinates in the Campiones association."

Riona recovered her composure. But, Ren answered seriously.

"I wonder about that. Those people are really reliable. They can use various amazing magic. But, perhaps, they aren't the right person for this job, that's my gut feeling....."

".....But I'm different?"

"Yes. This is completely my instinct but, if my fighting strength is 100, then I think the full powered Riona is around 40. But everyone in the association feels like they're only around 3 or 4 at best, and actually there are also a lot of members whose strength is even less than 1——"

".....I'll just comment, that's quite the accurate prediction."

Toba Riona's level was exceptional, not just in Japan, but in the scale of the whole world.

Actually was there any existence that could be ranked with her within the "bundle" that was mankind——. She was thinking that all this time. However right now, a monster that was looking down on her[from above] suddenly appeared.

For some reason she felt such situation was fascinating. She muttered.

"The performance of Rokuhara-san's scouter isn't bad."

It was also the same with his capability to judge the ability score and aptitude of his acquaintances with surprising accuracy.

"Come to think of it, the gods called godslayer as beast. Perhaps your kind's animalistic sensitivity for that kind of thing——is really sharp."

A smile that should be compared with a bird of prey and with a queen formed on Riona's lips.

"My interest to you is slightly welling up. It's to a degree that if you're telling me to accompany you a bit more, then I'm fine with accepting it for now."

"If can have Riona backing me up, then I'm fine with kowtowing to you again."

"You don't understand. Just that much isn't enough at all."

"Then you want my absolute obedience? That's fine. I'll engrave it on my heart."

"As always, it's only mouth that is really smooth."

Riona completely didn't believe the declaration of obedience from the youth who murdered god.

Yes, most likely, his nature surely wasn't so[weak] that his character would be warped just from getting worshipped as king or demon king or the like.

He always concealed his strength carefreely, cheerfully, and stubbornly.

Therefore this person.....might become qualified as a monarch. Though Riona wouldn't speak such thinking out loud no matter what, she wouldn't even show it on her expression. Instead she declared coldly.

"Very well. But, goshujin-sama. The hurdle has increased greatly now that you have exposed your true identity. The kind, careful, and thorough tutorial for beginner is already finished. From here on I'll have you use this Toba Riona well with only your own strength and caliber."

"There wasn't any tutorial or anything until now though."

"That is only your lacking of perception. Even like this I'm a kind person."

The two were talking on the autumn beach, early on the morning.

They were being illuminated by the dazzling morning sun. The restart of the extempore master and servant relationship was quite a setting for a dramatic stage, but,

".....Eh?"

".....The weather suddenly turned bad."

The sky suddenly became cloudy. Not only that. Thunder was rumbling, and lightning flashed. *Drop, drop* Large rain drops were also falling.

"The same thing also happened at Kobe before."

"The worked up emotion of the sky god Zeus crossed over the space distortion and affected earth here. I believe that the cause this time is also the same."

Something was starting at Sanctuary Troia——?

They had to return there quickly. Ren and Riona nodded to each other.

Chapter 6 – Passing Through the Night of Wooden Horse

1

And then, they passed through the space distortion once more—

Rokuhara Ren and his comrades returned to Sanctuary Troia.

It was evening. The fortress city standing on the hill was basked in the evening sun as though it was burning. It was dyed with sickening crimson color. As though the whole city was dashed with a great amount of fresh blood.....

The surrounding of the city was s vast plain. Ren was looking up at Troia from there.

"Rokuhara-san. This might be a trite speech but, I have a good news and a bad news."

Riona sent a white heron shikigami and projected what it saw into a hand mirror—

Ren immediately replied to Riona who scouted Troia with her usual spell.

"Then, start from the good news first."

"First, Troia is still not defeated. And then most likely, it will fall tonight."

"—Riona-sama, Ren-sama!"

Princess Cassandra raised a tense voice to them.

"How can this be!? I have just seen a terrifying future! Aa, I have to immediately warn father and mother and also the people of Troia-. Our country will be attacked by an unprecedented calamity after thi—"

"You don't need to say it, princess."

Riona placed her index finger on Cassandra's pretty lips.

"If you explain it to us, Apollo's curse will activate. Putting aside this oafish goshujin-sama, I cannot resist against it. I will make the prophecy in the princess's place."

"My, Riona-sama will!?"

"Yes. I don't have the supernatural power of foresight, but I know the plot of mythology. We are residents of the surface world, where we're able to read every kind of mythology in the shape of books."

"So it's a story that everyone in your country read!"

"And, please look at this. A wooden horse is being brought into Troia."

Riona's hand mirror—was projecting a plaza.

It was a place that would also be used for the city's event like festival. A gigantic wooden horse was placed there.

This wooden horse's body length was around 50 meter. Its height was around half of it.

Wheels were attached on its four legs so that it could be rolled forward.

A great number of Troia people were in a festive mood around the huge wooden horse. They were laughing, rejoicing, holding each other's shoulder and hugging, drinking alcohol together, and making merry by singing and dancing.

Even Ren and the two girls who were at a distance could hear the hustle and bustle of the city.

However, the center of that festivity was the Trojan Horse.....

Riona spoke solemnly.

"First let me talk about the tale from the death of the hero Achilles until the wooden horse is gifted to Troia in summary. It's like in weekly serialized battle manga. After the strongest rival died, the manga will be in tedious state from prolonging the serialization. It's like that."

"What do you mean Riona?"

"Balancing the number, small fights between fellow small fries as though to stall for time, it'll only become a repeat of pointless battles. Especially the son of the dead Achilles, he would make his appearance with fanfare, but then he wouldn't do anything really noteworthy, it's truly——"

"Aaa....."

It was an example that was really easy to understand for young people of modern Japan. Ren muttered.

"So even the authors of Greek mythology were suffering from the prolonging of famous serialization weren't they?"

"But, when the master of bow and the strategist Odysseus start moving, the story is speeding up drastically."

"The swindler-like person in Greek army!"

"After all he is the main character of the epic poem [Odysseus] where he does as he pleases with his cunning and cajolery. He suddenly makes the whole army to retreat in the middle of Troia's siege, leaving behind a wooden horse that he secretly built."

"Greek people are hiding inside that stupidly big wooden horse isn't it?"

"Yes. People of Troia don't notice that and they get carried away thinking that Greek army has run away. They brought the huge wooden horse into the city as war trophy."

"And, when night came from inside the wooden horse....."

"Several dozen heroes of Greece came out."

The Trojan Horse episode that even Rokuhara Ren knew.

Due to this "sneak attack", Greece's allied army obtained victory.

It was already almost sunset while they were talking. The evening star was already rising at the eastern sky, it was a time period that could be called as night already.

And then, Cassandra who was staying still as listener spoke forlornly.

"I, it's exactly like what I saw. Furthermore not only the city will fall....."

"I also know about that. The wealth of Troia will be pillaged by the violent army of Greece and the city will be set in fire. The men will be massacred atrociously, the women and children will be kidnapped regardless of their status as noble or commoner, and they will be turned into slave..... Princess Cassandra also won't be an exception, she will be violated by a hero Ajax the Lesser, become a slave of the enemy's army supreme commander Agamemnon, and soon she will arrive to a violent death——"

Riona intentionally calmed her heart and spoke without even a twitch of her eyebrow.

Cassandra didn't deny her words and only nodded once.

It was a tale of conquest and invasion that was irritating to even hear. Ren felt a righteous indignation that was out of character for him. In front of him, Riona concluded the mythological tale like this.

"But, even the "conceited feeling" of the people of Greece who are elated in triumph will be ended immediately. Their insolence enraged their protector gods Athena and others, where they will give them divine punishment. Zeus will cause a raging storm, while Poseidon will cause a

tsunami. The whole Troia will sink into the sea, and the large fleet of Greece army that is in the middle of returning home—will mostly sink into sea to become scraps of sea....."

"So that's the conclusion of this war. We've to return immediately to Troia."

Ren sighed.

"But, this side also has a lot of gods as their ally..... Say Stella"

"What is it Ren? I'll tell you in advance but—"

When he called his partner for the first time in a while, she didn't show her figure and replied with only her voice.

"It's pointless even if you expect something from me for the rough matter like fighting you know?"

"But, it's fine to call Apollo-san and others to help right?"

"I can manage somehow for that. Those guys are also coming here to be spectator anyway. But, if we call on them then the cold faced Athena and the rowdy Poseidon-sama will also give more effort than necessary so, in that case won't the war situation become tougher for our side?"

"That's right isn't it"

Now then, they returned to Sanctuary Troia without any preparation, but what should they do to go through this decisive battle.....

The sacred bird of guidance suddenly muttered in front of her troubled goshujin-sama.

"I don't know if it will be useful but, I recall this kind of legend. It's about the cause of Trojan War."

"Aa, that beautiful goddess contest where Prince Paris chose Aphrodite?"

"No. It's not that—it's the hidden circumstance behind the scene."

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2

People laughed, raised their glass, hugged each other's shoulder, and celebrated the victory.

That kind of merry people were everywhere after passing through the castle gate of Troia.

It was already like this at the entrance of the city. The whole Troia tonight must be rejoicing in the peace that was finally returned.

However, this great joy created an opening in the people's heart that would become the cause of tragedy.....

"Aa—!"

Princess Cassandra was at a loss of words as soon as she entered the city.

She must have seen it again. The future where her birthplace was destroyed by Greece allied army. Cassandra immediately approached the people of the city nearby.

"All of you, stop-. A lot of warriors of Greece are hiding inside that wooden horse! The retreating army will also return soon! If you don't hurry and escape then a lot of citizens will die, the day of destruction of this Troia will soon arrive.....-"

The princess's voice was sorrowfully appealing in earnest.

Furthermore she didn't do it only once. Cassandra repeated saying the same thing over and over heroically toward the people. But, however.

"This woman, saying such sinister thing in this auspicious day that finally arrived!"

"Get lost! You make the wine taste bad!"

"You want me to break open you head!? This stupid crazy woman!"

There were even thugs who were going to throw wine bottle and rock at her.

Cassandra was flustered and frightened. Ren covered her behind him while tilting his head.

"It must be the curse's fault that her prophecy isn't believed but.....isn't the people of the city also strange? Even though the Greece army has retreated many time before this, why are they being this happy this time?"

"They're also bringing in the obviously suspicious wooden horse so easily."

Riona knitted her eyebrows while looking around the city.

"I'm feeling the presence of a sorcery all around. Most likely the reasoning of Troia people is being clouded and they're made to make ruckus—this is the dazzling of wild excitement. I think this is the “work” of Goddess Hera or Athena."

"Wha, what if we burn that wooden horse by our hand——"

"That's a valid tactic. But, the epic poem also include a scene where Princess Cassandra is obstructed by her fellow Troia people when she try to do that so....."

"Cassandra. First I and Riona will try doing something."

"Ye, yes....."

Ren took the hand of the perplexed princess and walked rapidly.

His destination was the plaza. The place where the huge Trojan Horse was placed. Like that he walked forward for about a hundred meter from the castle gate but,

"Rokuhara-san. It seems that obstruction number one will begin."

"Yeah. I'm also feeling a dangerous presence prickling me."

"I, I also feel it. This is undoubtedly a god's—an omen that is sent by the great god who summoned the cloud Zeus! Aa!"

Riona warned him with a low voice. Ren easily replied back while Cassandra was in despair.

Right after that.

From inside the city of Troia—the festive people making ruckus suddenly vanished.

Instantly the place was transformed into a deserted city. This was Troia's largest major road that connected to the plaza. However right now there was only three people here, Rokuhara Ren, Cassandra, and Riona.

The incarnation of the sacred bird Yatagarasu immediately said.

"They must be planning to lock the godslayer Rokuhara-san inside a "barrier"."

"What, barrier?"

"To say it in chuunibyou language, it's a magic attack that [change the phase of space to lock the target into an isolated space where they can't interfere with reality and such]."

This time the houses were gradually vanishing from their surrounding.

At this rate the space would become a space with nothing existing in it except [nothingness] that stretched on forever. Just before that occurred, Ren—heightened the magic power residing in his body and mind in full throttle.

In order to oppose the sorcery trying to take him in.

"O lawful god the protector of the four cardinal points. O god Chintaku of the east, the south, the west, and the north. Repel the hundred of demon and exorcise the disaster—. Kyuukyuu Nyo Ritsu Ryou!"

Riona also took out four talismans.

Each had the color of blue, red, white, and black. The four talismans floated in the air. The black talisman as in front of the three of them, the red talisman was behind them, the blue talisman was at the right, and the white talisman took position at the left. They deployed a shield using magic power.

And then the surrounding's transformation to nothingness—stopped.

The buildings, the major street, the ground they were standing on were returning to the space where there was only nothingness spreading. But the people of the city was still vanishing.

In exchange, the sky that would be entering the night fully was filled with dark cloud.

It was a rain cloud. The weather looked like it would rain anytime soon. The sound of thunder was also rumbling. Cassandra yelled anxiously.

"Ren-sama, it's the servant of the lord of storm Zeus!"

"Looks like it....."

When they noticed a man was standing on their way.

Curly hair, bearded face, white garment, and a royal scepter. The god of sky Zeus. Ren left behind his comrades behind and headed alone toward the enemy's boss.

"Stella. I'll count on you just as we discussed before."

"That's really admirable for a man whose saving grace is his running away."

The sovereign of Greek mythology grinned.

"Before long the great battle that will decide the fate of Troia will begin. I have prepared this place for you so that you won't be a hindrance to that, godslayer."

"About that you see, I think there is no need for you to hold me back here."

Ren said as easygoingly as he could.

He made a statement that was as unexpected as possible to attract the attention of the great sky god. It was a trick for that. In the end Zeus muttered "Hou?" suspiciously.

"You're planning to save Troia aren't you?"

"That's right. But, you.....the king of the gods Zeus should have accomplished most of your objective right? I know, about this thing called god's plan."

It was the knowledge that Riona had taught him just now.

Ren smiled beamingly while kicking on the ground. It was his signal to his partner Stella.

(Sheesh-. How dare he pushed around a goddess in order to bargain with Lord Zeus like this! You're getting too carried away, Ren!)

(Hahaha. I'll absolutely do just like we discussed before, so I'll count on you for the negotiation.)

He exchanged conversation telepathically with Stella=Aphrodite.

As the result, the mini beautiful girl who was Rokuhara Ren's other half appeared on his left shoulder.

Stella smiled with her best composed face. She didn't show the slightest hint that she took this bargaining role reluctantly and bowed beautifully to

Zeus.

The belt that was wrapped around her small waist—was shining in rose color.

She had activated her authority the Friendship Circle. It was to progress the negotiation smoothly.

"I wish to tell my lord Zeus. Our interests.....is not necessarily opposing to each other. I made my appearance before your noble presence in order to ask my lord to recognize that fact."

"Hmm"

Zeus stared hard at the shrunken Stella who looked like a doll and nodded.

"Very well Aphrodite. In deference to your face as fellow gods, I will listen to what you have to say. Don't make me bored during that time."

"Please leave it to me, my lord."

Zeus's voice became four gusts of wind that rushed to east, west, south, and north.

Stella=Aphrodite's respond was elegant as expected. Even though she was somewhat a good-for-nothing, she was still the goddess of beauty and love.

"This is something that I too have only known recently. That my lord Zeus is none other than the true mastermind who instigated this Trojan War."

"Wait. The cause of this war is because of the "wrongdoing" of Troia's prince Paris."

Zeus immediately objected. However Stella paid it no mind.

"That's at the surface. My lord's—true motive seemed to be [to reduce the number of the humans on earth that has increased too many by causing a great war], something like that."

Mankind reduction plan by the chief god who was also said to be all-knowing.

Trying to cause a great war in order to adjust the human population that had increased too much. It was a motive with overly large scale. It was a talk that they had heard just now from Riona.

Stella talked further.

"It was a nice timing that Achilles's parents was holding their wedding ceremony at that time. Most of us the gods of Olympus were also invited to give them our blessing. But, my lord Zeus secretly arranged—so that only the goddess of discord Eris wouldn't be invited....."

"That's an inconceivable false accusation."

"The angry Eris threw her divine tool the 《Apple of Discord》 into the party. She filled the apple with the curse [The most beautiful goddess will obtain this]. Seeking the apple, I, Aphrodite, the war goddess Athena, and Queen Hera began to quarrel. In the end, we made Prince Paris to choose who is the most beautiful goddess....."

"....."

"After that I introduced the beautiful Helene to Paris, and in turn the opening of hostilities at Troia began. Everything is dancing on the palm of my lord Zeus....."

Stella continued speaking toward the sovereign who had fallen silent.

"Thinking back, when I thought that my lord was siding with Troia, the next day you would lend a hand to Greece. You granted your divine protection to both sides equally. So that the war will continue for long, that even more human will die—what does my lord think of this opinion?"

"Kukukuku"

Zeus finally leaked out a nasty laugh that was filled with implication.

It was an attitude that was the same like confessing that he was the mastermind. Stella appealed to the fatherly god.

"Enough blood of humans has been spilled throughout the long war that span across ten years. And then in the coming decisive battle.....my lord. Us gods who are siding with Troia and Rokuhara Ren here——will make the whole army of Greece to be on the receiving end of divine punishment. I believe that there is no need for the great god Zeus to personally bother with the purging of the like of godslayer."

"Fumu. I'm amazed that you realized my.....thought that I kept secret."

Zeus grinned and spoke haughtily.

"However. The godslayer there is also an insolent person who broke into Olympus. Having matter progress following his plan is also not amusing in itself, isn't that right? Destroying Troia and burying this Rokuhara Ren while I'm at it, making the war to be even more brilliant is also not——"

"Zeus-san, at that time"

Ren intruded her.

"I'll use the authority I stole from Nemesis and escape from this strange space somehow. And then, the raging storm and the great tsunami that apparently will occur in[this war's finale] by you and Poseidon—I'll send it back as much as possible to Olympus."

"What?"

"Nemesis-san is the goddess of retribution. And then she is also the goddess of justice. The bigger the sin and power of the target——the divine punishment that is sent back will also become heinously powerful. I won't know how far my power can go without trying it but....."

Zeus's gaze that was looking down on Zeus became grim.

The sky god was currently emitting a dangerous killing intent. Stella desperately appealed to him.

"My lord. In deference to your bond with this Aphrodite, I'm begging you to please rethink it. Listening to our request should be for the interests of both sides. I wish that my lord will pick the choice that will be the most profitable for you and Olympus——"

"Hmph. Certainly there is room for consideration. That's if that guy can really push back the storm and raging wave of us brothers. And then if it's the goddess Nemesis's authority, then perhaps.....such thought crossed my mind."

Zeus spoke with rough breathing.

"However Rokuhara Ren human, do you——believe that you'll really be able to do such feat?"

The king of the gods stared fixedly at Rokuhara Ren to measure his caliber.

"Pushing back the mighty storm and tsunami that can destroy Troia..... If you go that far, then you also won't get away unscathed from doing that. To accomplish that, you will have to burn your whole life and wring out a power that will extinguish your soul and your whole body after all!"

They managed to make an opponent that was previously unapproachable to speak until this far.

It was the grace of the authority Friendship Circle. But, from here on it would depend on Rokuhara Ren's [humanity]. Now then, could he declare "I can" in this place resolutely and obtained Zeus's trust——.

It was when Ren was hesitating of the choice for his next approach.

"E, excuse me, o great god Zeus, please allow me to humbly speak-"

The lovely princess Cassandra brought attention to her.

The beautiful princess who had been dumbfounded until now raised her voice bravely.

"If Ren-sama truly carry out what he spoke, then the palace of the gods, the holy ground of Olympus will end up half crumbling, and the blood of not few number of gods will be shed-. I don't wish to witness such future no matter what!"

Princess Cassandra was bestowed with the spiritual power of foresight from the sun god Apollo.

The blessing came along with a curse that no human would trust her prophecy. However, if it was the godslayer Rokuhara Ren, then that curse could be resisted.

That meant that of course the king of gods Zeus could also.....

The sovereign of the divine world of Greece glared at the terrified Cassandra with a terrible scowl, and then he clicked his tongue glumly.

That was the moment their negotiation with the chief god Zeus succeeded.

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3

The impregnable Troia entered the late at night time period.

Due to their revelry to celebrate the victory, most of the citizens were dead tired. They were heavily drunk and slept like log. There were also people who continued making merry throughout the night, but their number was few.

And then—

Several dozen ships were anchored at the cove in nearest distance to Troia.

The soldiers changed into small ships and began to land one after another.

Everyone was paying meticulous attention to not make sound as much as possible while acting swiftly and orderly.

Greece troops that disembarked on the sandy beach of the cove numbered around twenty thousand people in total.

.....There were people who were observing that happening.

The fortress city Troia. Ren and Riona were standing above the rampart.

"The people boarding those ships are mostly normal soldiers. The prominent heroes of Greece should be hiding over there."

Riona pointed at the opposite direction of Greece troop at the beach.

She pointed at the plaza inside Troia. The gigantic wooden horse that was brought in was showing its presence impressively there.

Ren tilted his head "Eh?".

"Someone is approaching the wooden horse. It looks he is wounded all over."

"He must be the Greek person who surrendered to Troia along with the wooden horse. Even after getting thoroughly tortured, he continued saying [Greece army has lost all fighting spirit and retreated], tricking the people of Troia. It's said that Goddess Hera granted him divine protection so that he wouldn't die no matter how much he get tormented."

"A sneak attack that is helped out by the gods can't possibly be prevented huh....."

They didn't use anything like torch so that they wouldn't be discovered by Greece army.

The night sky was enshrouded in dark cloud. The moon and the stars couldn't be seen. But, the [eyes] of Rokuhara Ren who killed a god saw through the night's darkness like a beast. Riona was also the same.

Thanks to that, on the rampart that surrounded Troia——

They could clearly see the twenty thousand troops of Greece outside the city and the huge wooden horse that was brought inside the city.

"Rokuhara-san. Greece army is starting to move."

Around twenty thousand troops were starting to march toward Troia above the hill.

[Hybrid race] like minotaur and Myrmidon people were also mixed among the troops. But, their pace and formation were orderly and in harmony. The army was controlled nicely.

The metal armor of Greece troops should make *kacha kacha* sound normally.

But, mysteriously there wasn't any sound. It seemed they applied trick like pouring oil into the sword's sheath or wrapping clothes around their armor.

They planned to gamble everything to settle this Trojan War through this night attack.

That determination granted them the discipline that was "unlike" them who weren't any different from pirate.

"We should begin too."

"Understood. ——O spirit of fire, send the flame of Yatagarasu to those people"

Riona quietly threw a talisman from the rampart.

The piece of paper that was written with spell passage flew for several hundred meters in an arc. It fell on the huge wooden horse at Troia's plaza—and in that moment.

The huge wooden horse was enveloped in intense flame and in addition large explosion also occurred.

GOUUUUUUUUUUN-! The large stage tool of Greece army broke into small pieces. Riona watched it happened while letting out loud voice that didn't lose against the explosive sound.

"Normally it should be completely annihilated by this explosion but.....!"

The plaza that was decorated by the wooden horse was completely enveloped in flame blast.

However, men rushed out from inside the fire—unbelievably there were nearly ten of them. Everyone was covered in soot and some burn injury on them, even so they still looked ready to fight.

"As expected from the legendary heroes of Greek mythology! They somehow endured that attack!"

"Can't be helped. We'll take care of them later, first we have to do something about the guys "outside"!"

Ren and Riona nodded to each other.

The two of them descended to outside the city with a rope that they hung on the rampart.

".....But Rokuhara-san. Is it really alright?"

"It's fine. I've known that something like this will also happen since I first came to Troia."

"Understood. I'll also consider it as the resolve of [someone who became demon king]."

Riona nodded. Ren crouched in front of her.

He stretched out his right hand, and touched the land of Troia with only his index finger and middle finger. This country had become a stage for war that had continued for ten years already. It was unknown just how much blood had been shed.

Even the things that Rokuhara Ren "saw" only in this short time only consisted of terribly gruesome battlefield—

Nemesis

"The Goddess of Retribution pass divine judgment to misdeed that jeopardize life."

Ren activated his authority with the memory of injustice he had seen with his eyes as the trigger.

Retribution—. Fundamentally it was an ability that deflected back the attack that was directed to Rokuhara Ren. But he could also apply "a bit arrangement" to it.

Yes. The authority of Ren and others [the godslayer] wasn't really something inflexible that stuck to the rule.

Speaking nicely it was flexible, but speaking clearly it was haphazard.

He could add various change in application based on his mood and sense at the time. He could realize a method of usage that he had never even imagined until that time.

A good example was the [divine protection of retribution] that he granted Cassandra.

The concept was created from a flash of idea that perhaps an attack that wasn't directed to him could also be deflected back. As the result, Ren

learned that he could also use his authority like that. This time too he was going with the same intuition.

"I wish for the judgment of justice here."

Just like how he wished for retribution to Cassandra's good will, right now he wished for retribution to Greece army that wished to atrociously trample the people and city of Troia. A good deed should be rewarded with good result. A bad deed should be rewarded with bad result.

Ren quietly talked to the [power of god] inside him.

"Say Nemesis..... I want to bring down the so called heaven's punishment to what the guys of Greece will start after this. Retributive justice, prompt divine punishment. Of course, if those guys won't do anything bad, then it's fine even if you don't do anything. But, such thing.....is absolutely not the case right?"

Ren talked while heightening his magic power to maximum.

"Blood, then rage, hatred, despair of the people who were harmed and murdered by Greece's soldiers.....this land of Troia has absorbed so much of those kind of things. All of those become the strength that stir up you—the goddess of justice and revenge, Nemesis."

Ren crouched and put two fingers of his right hand on the ground while declaring quietly.

"That's why, I'll do it in your place."

That was spell words to control godslayer's authority, the words of power.

The sacred words of power of revenge that was the oath of Rokuhara Ren—. And then right now, the right hand's index finger and middle finger were finally lifted away from the ground. Because he had poured enough magic power.

"The phenomenon of future has its cause in the past. O fate, manifest the entanglement of karma."

Nemesis

Retribution, activate.

Monsters were crawling out from the ground due to Ren's authority.

If it was explained concisely—they were human corpse.

However, they were [moving corpse]. They were walking properly even if their movement was awkward and shambling. The deads slowly headed toward the soldiers of Greece army. Their number was also great.

The moving corpses couldn't be counted in the units of ten or hundred.

About the same number with Greece army, around twenty thousand had come out from below ground—Ren who was the perpetrator of this instinctually knew that. And then, like tsunami the large army of living dead was descending on the Greece army that was currently approaching Troia.....

"U, UWAAAAAAAAAH!?"

"What's these monsters!?"

The soldiers of Greece yelled. The deads attacked them one after another.

They bit with their unspeaking mouth of corpse, grabbed with their rotten arms that looked almost falling off, bashed, gouged the enemy soldier's eyeball with their fingers. Those with pole, sword, spear, any kind of weapon would attack with those.

A regular scene of zombie movie or drama began.

Although the movement of the corpses were shambling, their arm strength was obviously far stronger than when they were alive. The Greece troops that should be strong were easily overwhelmed!

"GUAAAAAAH!"

"Shit, how dare you!"

"Don't falterrrr-! You guys, turn the table on them!"

Of course, the Greece army also counterattacked with all their might.

However, well, as expected it became a reproduction of the scene that was often seen in zombie movie type.

In the first place they were corpse, so the deads wouldn't mind it even if they were somewhat injured by sword or spear and continued to fight. As long as they weren't greatly damaged like having their limbs torn apart or their whole body bisected, the army of the dead wouldn't stop moving.

"Rokuhara-san. That large army of moving dead——"

Riona spoke. The two of them climbed on the rampart once more and overlooked the battlefield.

It was to secure visibility and so they wouldn't get dragged into the melee.

"They're the people of Troia.....who were killed by the Greece in this ten years of war aren't they?"

"Yep. Actually the Greece army still hasn't carried out their evil deed. But the retribution to the [greatness of their sin] that has accumulated in these ten years turned into Nemesis's divine punishment that came down on them."

The deads were massacring the soldiers of Greece while Ren and Riona were watching.

The armor and clothes they were wearing were in the style of Troia. Everyone sported wound that seemed to be from when they were murdered.

Corpse that was cut down with sword. Corpse that was stabbed with spear. Corpse that was burned by flame.

Corpse that was crushed by rock. Corpse that drowned in water. Corpse that was ganged up by a group and beaten to death. Corpse with crushed head. Corpse with incomplete limbs. Corpse. Corpse. Corpse.....

"I can only say that the authority of Rokuhara-san and Nemesis is tremendous."

Riona sighed.

"It has a prerequisite that the target is doing or has done some kind of “misdeed”, even so to be able to cause divine punishment this great....."

"That's really true."

Ren also sighed.

"It's still better if I'm just causing it—but I'm actually the one doing it, so perhaps it's not strange that I'm called something like demon king. Well, I came to Troia fully knowing that I might have to do this though....."

Right now many lives were being taken in front of his eyes.

He could see it as a just divine punishment of retribution. However, there was no denying that this was a tragedy that was caused by Rokuhara Ren's will and power. Although it was for the sake of preventing “even bigger calamity” that was approaching this Sanctuary and their own birthplace.....

Riona looked at Ren who was just a little bit crestfallen and said.

"Our objective is [preventing the destruction of Troia so that the effect won't spread to earth]. Due to that, I believe that this development is unavoidable."

"Is that how it is?"

"Yes. Trojan War is a muddy drawn-out battle that continued for ten years. Wanting a happy-go-lucky development like [Everyone let's get along and live in peace♪] from the sudden mediation of third party is—yes, an authority of brainwashing will be essential for such thing."

The voice of the high school girl who was also a great onmyouji sounded colder than necessary.

Perhaps she was being considerate to Rokuhara Ren who was feeling a kind of ashamed feeling and so she appealed that she was also complicit in this.

In order to respond to that feeling, Ren intentionally replied back with a voice that was lacking any tension.

"Brainwashing huh"

"And also a geass-like ability that can force absolute compliance."

"I see. If I can awaken to that kind of power and level up from being [beginner demon king], then I'll be able to change the plot of the myth in a smarter way."

Ren smiled bitterly and muttered.

"Then, I'll try working hard a bit more."

"Please do so. I too, if I have to choose a goshujin-sama anyway, then I'll want to choose a great demon king in the level like Angolmois who can shake the universe.But"

Riona's voice suddenly turned sharp.

"You should concentrate on the mission in front of you. The [Death Army] that Rokuhara-san summoned overwhelmed the small fires, but it will be hard for them to face hero level opponent."

"So those people has joined up already with the army!"

The hero Odysseus was ahead of where Riona pointed.

He drew his black metal bow to the limit and shot it powerfully. The sure-kill arrow flew for several hundred meters. Furthermore it also pierced through 50, 60 moving corpses altogether.

The Greece warrior that easily dispatched the corpses—wasn't just him.

One person swung around a splendid spear, scattering apart the corpses swarming him like brushing off insects.

One person used sword, one person used his bare fist. They were also making great achievement.

"That must be the master of bow Philoctetes. That person who looks similar with Achilles might be his son Neoptolemus. There is also the lecher bastard Ajax the Lesser over there. Carelessness is forbidden!"

Ren nodded at Riona's warning.

Furthermore there were also the gods of Greece including Athena. The chief god had reluctantly agreed to make an agreement, but most likely they—

Although, their side also had allies. Ren muttered.

"Stella and Cassandra should be doing their best for us too, so let us work hard too and overcome this do-or-die situation. I'll count on you too Riona."

.

4

"Night attack, everyone! The people of Greece lied in their offer of peace. Their aim is to launch a sneak attack on us!"

Princess Cassandra shouted herself hoarse in appeal.

She was in the palace of Troia. Princess Cassandra returned to the palace in order to notify her parents, the generals, and the brave warriors at Troia's side of the danger.

Originally there shouldn't be anyone who would believe the warning of the cursed prophet.

However, the army that the "godslayer" Rokuhara Ren called out from somewhere outside the rampart and the Greece allied army began a night battle.

"Everyone, please hurry! At the Scaean Gate that my brother Hector protected to the death, Ren-sama and Riona-sama who are of foreign birth are fighting hard by their lonesome! It will be our eternal shame if we the warriors of Troia arrive late to this battle!"

Cassandra ran around inside the castle and yelled as loud as she could.

The generals of Troia army who were tired from the party and slept soundly because of the alcohol were shocked by that lovely voice and woke up one after another.

This palace was located at the highest place of Troia city. Even though it was the middle of night, if they went out to the balcony, it was possible for them to listen and see the tumult of battle.

Thus—

While a bit late, numerous generals and soldiers marched from the palace.

They attacked the soldiers and heroes of Greece inside and outside the city. And then outside the rampart, the [army of the dead Troia people] of Rokuhara Ren was in the middle of fighting.

If that army combined their strength with Troia army that was sallying out from inside the city—

"We're as good as victorious.....it will be great if that's the case. The other side still has old geezer Poseidon and Athena, and the heroes who are protected by that woman....."

"Aphrodite-sama."

Cassandra turned toward the voice who talked to her from the palace's corridor.

When she noticed the goddess Aphrodite was standing there in her "shrunk form".

"Call me Stella when I'm in this form."

"A, as you command. Stella-sama."

"Very good. Perhaps you who are a member of Troia royal family who descended from the bloodline of god are fitting to be appointed as my maid. Serve me properly from here on."

"Ye, yes-"

Cassandra obediently nodded at the command of the haughty little goddess.

The two of them returned together to the palace. In the first place, Aphrodite who was a goddess who protected Troia was acquainted with several heroes and royalty. Stella would stand beside their pillow and urged them to sally out.

But, Stella's role didn't end with that.

She looked around the corridor restlessly and said "You over there".

She wasn't talking to Cassandra, but to a wild rat at a corner.

"So you come just as expected, o radiant Apollo. Can I ask you to call out to other like-minded fellows so they can also participate in the battle tonight that will be the last decisive battle? Right now outside the city——"

"Your “companion” the godslayer is showing his real ability there isn’t it?”

Unbelievably the dirty wild rat replied with a refreshing voice of a youth.

Cassandra went "My!" from being struck with wonder. It was the voice of sun god Apollo who once bestowed her with the spiritual ability of foresight and even a curse in addition.

Yes. Wolf and rat were sacred animals with extremely deep relation with this radiant god.

And then right now the belt wrapped around Stella’s small waist was shining in rose color. It was the activation of Rokuhara Ren’s authority Friendship Circle.

"Fufufu, very well. I will join all of you in a united front, o Aphrodite who was born from foam. And also one of my beloved children, princess of Troia."

He addressed Cassandra without looking guilty at all. Perhaps it ought to be said, as expected from a ruffian.

The wild rat glanced at the dumbfounded tragic prophet before quickly leaving.

"Our role is finished for the time being with this. What’s left is to carefully watch how far Ren can fight against the bitch Athena as his opponent——"

"Ste, Stella-sama."

Princess Cassandra obtained a revelation beside Stella who was sighing in relieve.

The spiritual power that was granted to her from the god who had just left showed her.

"Please come with me without asking any question!"

"Wa——wait! How dare you treat me like a baggage, what's your intention!?"

Stella=Aphrodite's body was only as big as a doll.

Cassandra lightly lifted up the strange existence that was a goddess and an assistant to a godslayer with both her hands while going [Hyo] and started running through the palace's corridor.

In order to change the future for sure this time using the power of foresight granted to her by god.

.

And then outside the rampart that protected Troia——

The sea god Poseidon arrived as the vanguard of the gods that protected Greece army.

"Fuhahahaha! As a tribute for the heroic Achilles who has departed, I will ——wash away Troia's rampart and palace!"

The wild god of sea was in his gigantic form this time too.

The dark cloud filling the night sky looked like it was clinging to the top of Poseidon's head.

This gigantic body was walking inside the ocean with loud sound *Zun-! Zun-!*. He stepped on the seafloor, parted through the waves, and moved forward with extraordinarily large stride step by step.

He was heading toward the city of Troia that was built on a coastal hill.

Large wave would be created each time the enormous god advanced a step inside the sea.

Zazaaan! Zazaaan! Zazaaan!

The surges pushed until the hill of Troia. It repeatedly shook the land.

It was truly the portent of[Sea god's attack!].

But, above the hill that was washed by Poseidon's large wave—a radiant sun god appeared.

"Pardon me honorable uncle. Betting the dignity of us the outer gods, I will protect the wealthy golden city Troia to the death."

The handsome Apollo nocked a golden arrow on a silver bow.

"Will you be able to slip through my far-reaching arrow and approach this city or not..... Please allow me the honor to watch the skill of Poseidon, the one who move the wave!"

"NUUUUUUUUH!"

Hyuuu-! The arrow was fired from the silver bow.

Apollo's far reaching arrow shoot through even the large wave that the sea god created, drawing a smooth arc, and flew toward the enormous Poseidon.

Of course it didn't end with just one arrow. Arrows were rapidly fired one after another like a sudden rain.

These numerous arrows stabbed the bluish black skin. Even so the wound that was like the sting of needle couldn't possible send Poseidon to death.

But each time the arrows stabbed Poseidon—

Apollo's arrow would explode *GOooOOOOON-!*

The divine might of flame and explosion from the sun god filled the arrows. *GOOOON! GOOOON!* Explosions rose one after another. Pushed by the barrage, even the turned gigantic Poseidon was stopped on its track.

"Damn you, you impudent twisted brat Apollo!"

Poseidon swung down the trident in his hand—

It pierced the bottom of the sea. Right after that, the sea and the land were starting to rumble unstably. He caused an earthquake, furthermore it was a great earthquake that could change the geography.

The elder brother of sky god Zeus was a king who reigned over not only the sea, but also the land.

Causing earthquake was also one of his authorities!

"Oo, as expected from old man Poseidon."

Apollo smiled gallantly even on the shaking land.

It was becoming hard to fix his bow's aim. However, he had already finished predicting just this much since a long time ago. The sea god who shook the land and the sun god of the far-reaching arrow began a contest of strength in the sanctuary.

.

In the battlefield where a fierce battle against the dead was unfolding—

The hero who was superior with bow than anyone in Greece yelled.

"Ooh. A skill that even this Odysseus cannot imitate—!?"

Silver arrow suddenly flew from far in the sky.

The soldier guarding him was pierced by it. Furthermore, the moment the arrow pierced the heart, the whole body of his retinue melted into mercury.

It was an astonishing divine skill of bow. An excellence of bow shooting with subtle grace.

Odysseus who also excelled in bow technique had sharp eye like a hawk.

He noticed that there was a tall beautiful maiden standing on the rampart of Troia. He nocked a silver arrow on a golden bow.

"As I thought! That's the goddess of moon Artemis!"

Odysseus immediately fired an arrow with his black metal bow even while feeling admiration.

Of course he aimed at the goddess. However, the goddess who looked really similar with the beautiful god Apollo fired her arrow once more on the rampart calmly—

The arrow of Odysseus and the arrow of goddess Artemis.

They splendidly collided midair.....not.

The arrow that was fired by the king of Ithaca, the wisest man of Greece army. It was magnificently sniped by the far-reaching shooter, the moon goddess.

The arrow of Hero Odysseus melted into mercury.

Artemis fired two, three more arrows!

"Nuo!?"

He couldn't fuss over appearance. Odysseus intentionally fell and rolled around on Troia's ground. He somehow survived the goddess's sniping.

He immediately crawled on the ground and hid behind a cover. He held his breath.

Artemis already turned her attention away from Odysseus.

She must have discovered a new target—most likely another hero of Greece army. Silver arrows were starting to be fired toward completely different direction.

".....Should I fire my arrow at Artemis?"

Odysseus asked himself, and immediately decided. That was foolish.

If he fired, the goddess of far-reaching arrow would notice his location. Trying something like comparing skill as archer against the shooter of the Sanctuary who surpassed himself, even being stupid had its limit.

Also, there was one more unruly god in the battlefield.

Clatter clatter clatter clatter clatter clatter clatter clatter clatter clatter clatter clatter!
clatter clatter clatter clatter!*

It was the sound of rolling wheels like thunder. The sound of a sprinting chariot that was pulled by two war horses.

"That's Ares, the king of steel sword clad in bronze!"

Odysseus immediately noticed.

The handsome faced war god Ares was driving his favorite chariot and ran around the battlefield.

After he passed through, the corpses of Greece soldiers —and heroes that were ran over to death were left behind in countless number.

It passed while thoroughly scattering blood, flesh, entrails, and brain matter everywhere.

"UuuuuuRARARARARARARARARARARAaaaAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!
"

Ares wildly yelled on his chariot.

The horse riding people of Scythia, Amazon, and Cimmeria often yelled with passion. War god Ares was worshipped by such tribes—he was a wild war god.

Many of the countries of Greece held him in contempt as a god of the savage tribes.

However, Odysseus who was a veteran warrior with extensive knowledge knew.

It would be a different story if they had the direct divine protection of the princess god Athena, but in this overseas territory—furthermore in this land like Troia where the people excelled in rearing horse, they shouldn't oppose the war god of horseback riding lightly.

Odysseus stayed down on the ground waiting for Ares to pass.

"And where did that Athena go off to.....?"

Odysseus talked to himself.

In this Trojan War, the goddess Athena would often appear at this kind of time in a transformed appearance to offer a helping hand to the heroes of Greece faction. That was becoming the custom.

However right now there wasn't any presence of the princess god with shining eyes.....

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The corpses of the dead Troia people became warrior that was trampling the Greece army.

The moon goddess Artemis and the war god Ares were using their bow as well as chariot to overwhelm not only the ordinary soldiers, but also the heroes that Greece allied army boasted.

Poseidon who appeared from the sky was obstructed from coming up on land by the bow of the radiant Apollo.

The land was shaking by the sea god's authority. The sea was fiercely raging. But, the earthquake as well as the waves were receding from a while ago.

It must be because Poseidon was forced to focus on his contest of strength against the sun god.

And then, at a corner of this battlefield—

Rokuhara Ren was facing the goddess that should be called as the enemy's ringleader.

"It has been quite some time, godslayer."

The girl who was wearing green robe, Goddess Athena smiled indifferently.

"What will bring this war to finish.....will be the duel between me and you it seems."

"Well, I think, perhaps that's true."

The title match will finally begin—. Ren muttered quietly.

.

5

"Come out Aegis, the instrument of protection bestowed to me by my father Zeus."

A rectangle shield with goat skin attached on it appeared above Athena.

It had a size that could snugly hide the petite Athena behind it. Ren had seen in Olympus how lightning could be fired from this Aegis shield.

Right under the floating big shield, Athena's attire suddenly changed.

"O staff of wings, o Gorgoneion. Appear to where I am together. In order to offer the fruit of victory to Athena who govern over wisdom and war."

The war attire that was worn by Athena of the shining eyes—.

White garment that looked really suitable for a goddess was accompanied with a silver cape.

A medal made from bronze was hanging from her neck. On its surface was the engraving of Medusa—[A female monster with countless snakes growing from its head in the place of hair].

A golden staff appeared in her right hand. Bird wings were attached at the tip of the staff.

"Rokuhara-san, I can go anytime."

"Of course I'll count on you Riona! Help me with everything you got!"

It was the moment he gave the permission of “liberating the ability” to his reliable ally.





Toba Riona instantly transformed into the golden large bird Yatagarasu. She flew to the night sky of Sanctuary Troia.

However, Athena immediately muttered.

"It's disrespectful for mere retainer to intrude into the sacred battle between god and godslayer. In that case come out, my servant the black wings."

A huge monster bird flew from the sky far away that was enshrouded by ash colored dark cloud.

It was a black owl with wing span that reached twenty meter. However, only its face was beautiful—it was a face of human woman. A bird monster with human face!

"You intend to compete with me!?"

The golden Yatagarasu and the human faced black owl were around the same size.

KUeeeeEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

The owl screamed just like a monster bird, then from its beak or rather from its woman mouth, purple flame that looked venomous was spewed out. Riona=Yatagarasu was a bird of fire, so something like normal flame would just get absorbed by her, and yet—

She flapped her golden wings.

The gust that was created from that blew away the purple flame.

It was a splendid defense. However to speak another way, the enemy was a user of flame that threatened even the bird of fire. Furthermore, the opponent was also dancing in the sky.

"Bring it on, I'll turn the table on you!"

Yatagarasu and the black owl rapidly climbed up higher and higher with a momentum that ought to be called as midair kaiju battle. Their contest of strength began.

On the other hand, Athena who was left on the ground was——

"O Aegis, release the thunder."

In front of the large shield that was floating above, a ball shaped lightning was generated.

It wasn't just one. Several sphere of light with diameter reaching a meter materialized and flew forward with intense crackling electricity.

Athena pointed with her winged staff toward Rokuhara Ren. The spheres flew with the speed of lightning.

"Uwah!?"

Lightning sphere, lightning sphere, lightning sphere, lightning sphere, lightning sphere, lightning sphere, lightning sphere, lightning sphere were approaching.

Ren waited for the critical moment where all of them would hit him, then he activated Nemesis's escaping speed and dodged. Dodged.

He jumped to right and left and completely dodged all of them.

It looked like a restless movement, but Ren's balance wasn't disturbed with each of his step.

A skilled dancer wouldn't tumble unsightly no matter how intense he danced, a boxer with excellent footwork would jump around freely inside a cramped ring, making all punches to cut only empty air. Rokuhara Ren's movement possessed a similar elegance like those.

However, he wouldn't win with just running away.

Ren dodged the thirty second lightning sphere while sprinting forward.

He moved toward Athena. He planned to strike with Nemesis's retribution from close range—or he was. But the goddess of war grinned.

"I can see it, swift godslayer!"

She swung the winged staff in her hand horizontally.

She predicted his movement that was stepping forward in godspeed and splendidly placed an attack on his track.

Ren performed head sliding as though falling diagonally to the front just before he got hit. With this he somehow dodged Athena's staff.

If an example was made in baseball term, the swing of a slugger was defied by a curve ball that fell vertically.

Ren slid on the ground.

However he immediately stood up with a nimbleness and flexibility like a cat.

"A splendid body movement. It deserves this Athena's praise."

"As an opponent, that condescending praise doesn't make me happy at all....."

"Fuh. Are you feeling scared, godslayer?"

Athena provoked. However Ren answered flippantly.

"No. I'm a human who want to want as easily as possible at this kind of time. I don't want to get punched even once, and when I punched, I want to KO the opponent with just one punch. That's the most economical use of energy, and if I have to confess—that's what I've done most of the time when I'm facing human opponent until now."

"Hou"

"After all that way consume time and calorie pointlessly the least, both for me and also for my opponent. But, when you're the opponent.....I guess it might be impossible to do that."

"Kukukuku. What a strange man."

Athena snickered hearing Ren's opinion.

"It's said that when a god encountered a godslaying warrior, their heart will be swelling with fighting spirit and their body will be overflowing with strength to fight. Because god and godslayer are fellow arch-enemy who can't live under the same sky. However, even when I'm talking with Rokuhara Ren from this near....."

"You feel nothing?"

"Yes. It's really mysterious."

"I've been told that before this too. Apparently because I'm a "variant" who got stuck with Stella—a god, so I'm not normal godslayer."

"However, it doesn't change the fact that you are a godslayer."

Athena told coldly.

"Rokuhara Ren. First I will bring demise to this Troia. The after-effect of that calamity should cross the [gate] of diversity world and reach until the surface world that is your birthplace."

By surface world, she meant earth.

Athena smiled after giving that sinister announcement.

"Through that, the pollution to the mother earth from the foolishness of the humans—will be wiped. It will be a help for the land. Fufufufu"

"What will sink Troia are earthquake and storm and great flood.....sorry but I'll say no thanks to that kind of present!"

"Then defeat me with force!"

Athena heroically howled. In respond, Ren finally—

Liberated all his stock. The numerous inhumanity and attack that he received in this Sanctuary Troia until now. He manifested all of them.

The space around Ren—behind, above, left, and right of him.

Several divine tools appeared and floated lightly midair.

First was the spear that the sea god Poseidon wielded. Furthermore, the number was nearly twenty.

There was also the lightning that Zeus unleashed. It was a cluster of lightning that was crackling while waiting for the time it would be fired. If their number was counted it would be around twenty.

And then the same thing like the lightning sphere that Athena fired just now also appeared by more than thirty.

Also, there was also the shield that the hero Achilles tackled him with and the sword of Ajax the Lesser, one of each of them. They were mixed among the armaments floating in the air.

And then, all those weapons and lightning—were grabbed by Goddess Nemesis's hand.

More than seventy winged avengers manifested. Everyone was going to unleash an attack of retribution!

"Oo!"

The goddess's shining eyes were opened wide from admiration and astonishment.

"So you control karma and reproduce the bygone past so boldly like this!"

"It's not the time to be stingy. I'll go with my all!"

Ren pointed at Athena with his index finger and middle finger glued together.

All the Nemesis simultaneously struck with spear, sword, shield, lightning, and so on toward the war goddess!

"Kuh..... Put forth every effort to protect me, Aegis!"

The large shield that was floating above Athena until now.

The protector that the sky god Zeus gifted to her descended to right in front of her. It then built a defense by enveloping the princess god with white light of protection.

The spear and lightning that Ren unleashed flew toward it.

GUON-, GUON-, GUON-, GUON-, GUON-!

The attack of retribution collided on Aegis shield as well as the sacred light of protection one after another. Dozens of heavy collision sound echoed. However, Athena's defense wasn't broken through.

But, Ren muttered undauntedly.

"Sorry, I'm lying with not being stingy. I have this in reserve."

"What!?"

A trident suddenly appeared in Ren's right hand.

The more than seventy Nemesis finished their attack and vanished, but replacing them, he manifested the attack that he received from Poseidon—one of his lasts.

He held it aloft to throw it toward the dazed Athena.

But, the war goddess suddenly smiled fearlessly. In that instant, the goddess of victory Nike flew toward the spear that Ren would throw!

Nike. She was a maiden that looked like Athena's elder sister with completely matching appearance. Wings of white bird grew on her back.

The torso of that beautiful figure——was pierced *gusari*by the spear's tip!

"Godslayer, don't apologize for your falsehood. Using scheme is also something that I'm doing."

The winged staff had vanished from Athena's hand when he noticed.

That staff instantly transformed into the winged goddess Nike who charged forward. With Nike using her body as shield, this spear couldn't target Athena anymore!

"Farewell, Rokuhara Ren."

Next the medal hanging on Athena's neck——the engraving of Medusa on its surface was shining mysteriously from its eye part.

Right after that. The objects at the surrounding instantly became [stone].

Even the soldiers of Greece who were fighting fiercely were petrified. They became unspeaking stone statue.

Even the deads who were called by the authority of retribution were petrified, becoming unspeaking stone statue.

Their weapon and armor also became stone. The soil of the ground that Ren stood on was also becoming cold grey bedrock.

The medal that Athena previously called[Gorgoneion].

Most objects within the area under the gaze of the monstrous woman Medusa that was carved there——would be petrified by its miraculous effect.

In fact, Rokuhara Ren—the godslayer’s lower body from his waist below was petrified.

"Uu.....!"

Ren was speechless. With this he was unable to display his escape speed that was his strong point.

"Let me tell you, godslayer. Athena is also a goddess who is employing the snake monster Gorgon. Without it, this battle might be your victory....."

The medal of snake woman hanging on the goddess’s neck.

It suddenly transformed into a golden snake that leaped to the air.

It stretched until the neck of Rokuhara Ren who was ten meter ahead, in order to thrust its fang!

(Uu—!?)

He would die at this rate. He would lose. He refused such thing even if it cost his life!

The incoherent thought lit fire to his fear and battle instinct, heightening his reflexes to the extreme limit. Look. Look at the golden snake coming at him. Look at Athena’s gaze too.

There was only ten cm left until the fang reached his neck. Nine, eight, seven—

The shining gaze of the goddess that was fixed on him was grimly watching Ren’s whole body.....

"I wish for.....the judgment of justice here!"

He chanted Nemesis’s words of power and heightened his magic power as much as he could.

The stiffening of his lower body suddenly vanished. He broke the curse of petrification. Then he used all his strength to jump right behind him, jump, jump, jump—

The next instant, Ren was right at the middle of a lush grass plain.

It was a place that was easily five, six kilometer away from Athena and Troia city.

He somehow managed to escape this far with his godspeed escape. However, the golden snake firmly bit on Ren's neck. He was unable to escape completely because the petrification delayed him.....

The golden snake immediately vanished. It must be returning to Athena.

And then, a prickling intense pain rushed through Rokuhara Ren's whole body.

"Is that a poisonous snake? This is a little, no, this is really bad....."

He muttered. His consciousness was getting faint.

He hazily witnessed—a golden large bird descending from the sky.

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6

"Oo.....how can this be....."

Hero Odysseus was wandering a cold city of stone.

The city of Troia. A fortress city with extreme splendor due to commerce. A horse rearing country that also possessed deep relation with a large country of the east Hittites.

However right now everything inside the city of that Troia had become stone.

Whether it was the ground, or the trees growing on the street, or the wooden building, they were all turned into stone.

The soldiers and heroes of Greece and also Troia who were fighting on the street, and even the citizens who were running around to escape, all of them were turned into stone statue without question.

It was as though they were being stared by the snake monster Medusa in a posture that would start moving anytime.

"To think, that it will become this kind of development.....!"

Odysseus broke into a large shop and lamented.

There was no change at the stone material that was used for the vast residence from the very beginning. But, even the remaining wooden part was completely petrified. And then the people, the fortune, even the food and everything else were all turned into stone.

But, the greatest problem of all was—

How even the glittering treasures like gold, silver, gem, and the like were also reduced into mere pebble.

Even though he had fought hard for ten years in order to plunder the wealth of this city to bring it back to his own country!

"Dammit, dammit! Who in the world is the culprit of this!?"

This time Odysseus climbed on the rampart that surrounded Troia and yelled.

It wasn't only the inside of the fortress city that was turned into stone.

Even the soil and grass on the plain spreading around the city were also turned into inorganic stone. Surely they were also cold like an ice field. It seemed that the binding spell of stone wouldn't be in effect if people went until the coast where Greece army disembarked but.....

"Hou. As expected from you, Odysseus. You somehow endured the eye of I and Gorgon and escaped from being a stone captive."

A girl's voice talked to him even though he was on the rampart.

Odysseus prostrated. A battle dressed Athena had arrived.

"All the other humans ended up as stone scrap. Well, those like Achilles, Hector, Paris, or Ajax the Great who seems like they would be able to withstand has vanished into nothing in the battlefield already. You who are the most better among the remaining people being able to stay safe like this.....is something understandable."

‘Kukuku’, Athena chuckled.

Even while prostrating, Odysseus couldn't just ignore what Athena had said and raised his voice.

"Of divine daughter of Zeus! By chance are you saying that you are the one who caused this unusual event!?"

"Indeed, that's what I said."

"Look at the city! The treasure of Troia and also the people of Greece who should be bringing that home, even the women and children who should be enriching us as slave, due to your whim they——"

"Damn fool. It's not a whim."

"Just now, what did you say!?"

"Fuh. I am also a god of wisdom. I've been aware since a long time ago, that the foolishness and haughtiness of all of thee will increase all the more to an unendurable degree after your victory in this war. In that case....."

Athena declared coldly to the astonished Odysseus.

The radiance of her eyes looked similar to a snake that was just a second before snapping at its prey. It was coldhearted as well as fierce.

"I think it's also fine to bring down the judgment to all of you people of Greece together with this Troia and its people. Kukukuku. Now let's see, perhaps I should just finish it like this."

"Please wait, o Athena!"

"Oo, haughty Odysseus. I will spare your life as your reward from escaping the binding of stone. I allow you to depart to the faraway ocean."

Athena grabbed the hair of the prostrating hero with her slender hand.

She threw him high to the sky like throwing a discus in a competition. The direction was toward the sea. Odysseus's face was staying shocked while he was flying to the dark sea at the distance.

"U, OOOOOOOOH!?"

"Don't worry, when the time comes I'll allow you to return to your country Ithaca. Strive hard until that time."

.

"O beautiful princess god Athena."

The voice of sun god Apollo came from inside the darkness.

"Tonight you are really rough with your execution. You even released the eyes of Gorgon."

"I got excited. There is no problem with that isn't it, o radiant one."

They were at the center of Troia city, the plaza.

The giant wooden horse that was the hideout of the heroes of Greece—its wreckage that became little pieces was scattered. But, even those wooden splinters submitted under Athena's authority and became a mountain of rock.

"Troia that all of you protected is destroyed here but.....this Athena also personally dealt the divine punishment to the warriors of Greece. Let us reconcile in our dispute with that."

"Certainly, that point of compromise might be just right."

The one who nodded was the goddess of moon Artemis.

With a thick cloud covering the sky, the moon that should be called as her other half couldn't be seen. However, on the ground, the goddess of far-reaching arrow was beautiful just like shining silver moon.

"Elder brother. Shouldn't we close the books on the long Trojan War with this?"

"Perhaps that is so, little sister. Then my unruly friend Lord Ares, what is your opinion about this?"

"Now that the soldiers that should be destroyed has become pebbles, it can't be called a war anymore."

War god Ares also got down from his chariot and came to Athena's side.

His figure of a handsome youth clad in bronze armor looked disappointed without much interest. In addition, right nearby the sea god Poseidon was making a similar expression.

"Hmph! I too have lost my touch, to allow a little girl to snatch away the spotlight like this from me. You can do whatever you like with this kind of war, I don't care!"

He stopped his skirmish with Apollo right after the binding spell of stone descended on Troia.

After that Poseidon shrunk his gigantic body until similar height to human before coming here to meet Athena.

Athena grinned fearlessly at her angry uncle.

"Then, elder brother of my father Zeus. I wish to borrow your authority for a while. In order to rinse Troia here with a great wave and wash away the fleet of Greece."

"Very well. I'll leave the clean up to you."

The sea god Poseidon vanished. Ares and Artemis also vanished.

They returned to the seat of the gods Olympus. The radiant youthful god who was left alone spoke with a smirk.

"Then, I will also depart. It will be good if you can clean this up without any accident, o divine princess."

"What do you mean by that, Apollo?"

"What. My eyes that are seeing through the future caught a glimpse of the shadow of that youngster, that's all. It seems that man somehow escaped from the eyes of the snake god too somehow."

After showing the broad smirk of a ruffian, the sun god Apollo vanished.

Athena who was left by herself—courageously smiled. If that person would stand in the way of the war goddess once more even after being bitten by Gorgon's fang,

"Fuh. At that time I will make him yield with my divine might without fail."

.

Rumbling thunder could be heard.

Lightning was starting to move inside the dark cloud that was hiding the moon.

"So Rokuhara-san couldn't escape completely even with his legs....."

Riona looked down at her fainted goshujin-sama and sighed.

She somehow defeated Athena's underling, the human faced black owl, but she was a bit late.

At a plain a few kilometer away from Troia that became a petrified city—. The area around here wasn't violated by the evil gaze of Gorgon. The grass was verdant.

Amidst that Rokuhara Ren collapsed with his back leaning on an olive tree.

He was losing consciousness. His face was pale and his lips was changing color to black with hint of blue. Riona summoned a talisman and put it on the Japanese youth's forehead.

The white talisman was instantly dyed black and became ash.

"It's an absurdly strong deadly poison. Against normal people it will be able to kill twenty or thirty thousands."

The talisman wasn't for healing, but a talisman of spiritual examination to ascertain the cause.

That was why the talisman was showing effect. However, magic wouldn't work on this goshujin-sama. Even if she gave him medical treatment, it would end up in vain.....if she did it normally.

"Well, I have been shown the method. There is no way Toba Riona cannot do the same thing."

The problem was in the point that she would have to do that kind of thing to him.....

"Later I would have to make him absolutely repay this favor ten thousand times—no. Rather this matter ought to be buried in the darkness of history. It has to be treated as an act that never existed at all....."

On top of Riona's hand, the talisman of Mahamayuri mantra burned blue.

She was burning a talisman of divine mantra to heal all kinds of sicknesses. She then swallowed this fire and the blazer-wearing Japanese girl brought her face closer. She moved while her whole body was stiff with tension.

The maiden's soft lips, and the lips of godslayer that had turned bluish black.

Both firmly joined with each other.

.

".....-san. Rokuhara-san"

"Eh? What happened to me, Riona?"

"To think that you will recover naturally from that state, it seems that godslayers like Rokuhara-san has life force that is off the chart. You will be able to enter a power struggle against cockroach even in earth after mankind is destroyed by nuclear war."

"You said that my body healed from Athena's poison by itself?"

"It seems so. It's great isn't it, Goshujin-sama."

Rokuhara Ren's consciousness and physical state recovered.

He tilted his head hearing Riona explaining it to him with a composed expression.

He couldn't imagine that his body would be able to recover naturally from the poison. And yet, right now he only felt a bit of prickle from his neck that was bitten. It was really baffling.

However, he also had a personality that easily forgot how dangerous it was when the danger itself had passed.

"Well, it's fine if that's the case."

"Good thinking. That's the ideal comment, goshujin-sama."

"I don't really get it but, thank you Riona."

In front of the nodding Riona, Ren looked up to the rumbling night sky.

After that he stared at the direction of Troia that became a petrified city and muttered with a subdued tone.

"Looks like I can still make it in time for a revenge match....."

".....You're unexpectedly gutsy, Rokuhara-san."

"No way. If I can leave it on other people's hand, then I'll happily do so. It's because it doesn't look like other people can do it that I have no other choice. But"

Ren grumbled at Riona who was gazing in wonderment to him.

"I've also used up all my stock of retribution, so I don't know if I can win. Should I try giving it a go with the mindset of going for broke——"

Ren sat down and leaned on the olive tree.

It seemed he fainted in this posture. And then, it felt like there was a mysterious sweet and soft sensation remaining on his lips..... He stared at the beautiful face of Riona who was standing in front of him.

"Wha, what is it?"

"It feels like I'm recalling something important. When I look at Riona's face, something is stuck in my mind."

When Ren answered, Riona looked alarmed for some reason.

"Wha, what could it be!?"

"Perhaps it's related to the big match with Athena. A really important matter—I know!"





When Ren yelled, Riona looked like she was startled from the bottom of her heart. It was at that timing.

A lovely voice of a girl called out from afar.

"Ren-sama! Riona-sama!"

"Looks like you failed to die this time too, Ren! And the bird girl too-. I'll give you two my praise!"

Cassandra and Stella were approaching in great speed.

The two of them were surprisingly straddling a chestnut unsaddled horse. The one controlling the horse was Cassandra who was raised in palace. She was skillfully directing the horse only with both her legs that were at the sides of the horse's torso and her slender arms that were holding on the horse's neck.

Come to think of it—Ren noticed it this late.

"For some reason, since coming here I've never seen someone directly riding a horse....."

"It's because stirrup for the feet to step on is still hasn't been invented. But, if it's nomad people who got along with horse since they were born, riding horse like that is.....ah, I see."

Rioma muttered with a face that realized something.

"It's Homer's set phrase that described Troia as [horse breeder country]. In the first place the equestrian tribe that considered horse as sacred also has relation as sworn friend with the female warrior tribe Amazon that is also equestrian people. The royalty, and even the princess having knowledge of horse riding and archery is quite plausible....."

"Thinking back, Cassandra also managed to shoot a bow accurately at Achilles....."

"Ren-sama! You're safe!"

Cassandra finally stopped her horse beside Ren and jumped down.

Ren hurriedly caught the princess's soft body. The pure princess of Troia hugged Rokuhara Ren tightly as though he was her blood related elder brother.

"The curse of Gorgon descended on Troia and Ren-sama is also defeated once—. I saw that future and hurriedly sneaked out from the city!"

"I was the one who searched Ren's location for her. Be thankful."

Cassandra was talking tearfully, while Stella talked haughtily from above the horse.

They smoothly reunited with each other in an unexpected shape. And then, with this he would be able to use [that method]. Ren was hugged by Cassandra while staring straight at his new partner.

"Hey Riona. Can I ask you for a "request"?"

.

Right now Athena was on a steep cliff that overlooked the night sea.

She stared to the sky from there and called to the dark cloud covering the night sky.

"The god whose thundering roar until beyond the faraway world, the greatest god who is the most glorious Zeus, son of Chronos. With our blood relation, I Athena will bring wind and rain to the sky."

Thunder rumbled and lightning started to fall without pause.

Rain fell down in large drops. It should become a heavy rain soon. The wind too. Strong wind blew fiercely. It was truly the portent of a storm.

"Under the name of the bluish black haired Poseidon, I shall shake the sea. The authority of the ship destroyer, the king who possess the ocean and the land, watch it thoroughly."

She was on a steep cliff that was located several kilometer away from Troia right now.

Large waves were surging on the whole coastal area, including this spot. Furthermore the waves came continuously. The waves hit the cliff incessantly and splashed in white color. A great tsunami should come before long.

"Trojan War will come to a close with this! Those who have objection to my ruling can come forward!"

Athena yelled with fighting spirit and wild soul.

Ren listened to that while slowly approaching her.

"So you come, godslayer."

"I somehow held on to my life, so I came in a hurry for a revenge match."

"Very well. I too am feeling regretful due to our unsettled battle. Yes..... I was wondering if it's all right for the divine princess of Olympus to win only by trickery."

While she introduced herself as princess, her dignity was worthy of a queen instead—

Athena of the shining eyes stared heroically at Rokuhara Ren.

"Let's settle it decisively this time. With a majestic attack of a god."

"Roger. And, I'll meet that attack with a cross-counter."

"It seems you are keeping a secret plan. Kukukuku. Are you planning to use Achilles's shield?"

"Actually I was also seriously considering that method. But, I feel like that thing isn't suited for me....."

"A good thinking. After all, you are a warrior who commanded swift feet. A Rokuhara Ren who stop moving and hide behind a shield is nothing special."

They exchanged a battle of words while finally starting a head-on fight.

The tool that Athena chose at the end was Gorgoneion.

"My servant who is my other self, we're going to slay our arch-enemy!"

The medal that was engraved with the face of snake monster Medusa was thrown toward Rokuhara Ren.

Gorgoneion flew in the air while—turning into a lump of bluish black flame. Furthermore it was a flame in the shape of large snake that reached ten meter in size!

This bluish black flame didn't generate any heat at all. Rather it was emitting a chill.

"Kukukuku. It's the flame of Hades that burned in the white frozen soil at the end of the realm of the dead, stretching at the bottom of the dark land. An authority that is related to the mysteries of the Gorgons and Athena, taste it to your heart content!"

The bluish black flame in the shape of large snake sprang forward—

Of course Ren thrust forward the index finger and middle finger of his right hand.

"Goddess of revenge, this is the time to bring down the divine punishment. I wish for the judgment of justice right here!"

His aim was only one. To reflect this bluish black flame directly to Athena.

The transparent avatar of Nemesis appeared behind Ren, protecting him. He burned the magic power he had to the limit and poured it into his thrusting two fingers.

Everything was in order to accomplish the retribution. However.

"Don't underestimate the princess of Olympus, godslayer! I'm not so powerless that I will fall behind the inexperienced you in a head-on contest of strength and authority!"

The snake shaped black flame and Rokuhara Ren's fingertip clashed in midair with both sides hanging on in place.

If this was a sword fight then it was a situation of sword locking on each other.

It was because the two authorities were struggling for supremacy. The divine power that Athena poured into this attack was so powerful it couldn't be reflected easily even with the authority of retribution.

And then, Ren's two fingers were gradually being pushed back.

It was only by a few millimeters each time, but he was slowly losing the contest—. It was truly a desperate situation!

"As expected, a super major league god is different....."

Ren grumbled with a small voice, then he roared loudly.

"In other words, this is the time to stand firm!"

"Oo!?"

Athena stared fixedly at Rokuhara Ren in wonder.

The right arm and two fingers that Ren thrust forward was enveloped in crimson flame!

"Secret words of fire and sun, purify and exorcist all kinds of sin and impurity!"

"Flame's words of power!? You have such authority!?"

"The girl who you treated as lower rank has a bit of it. I requested her using Stella's authority. That I want her to lent it for a bit."

It was the same like when he received arrows from the sun god Apollo.

The crimson flame gushed out from Ren's right arm and fingertips. The flame immediately transformed into the shape of a bird, becoming a bird of fire that flapped its wings—

It swallowed the large snake of bluish black flame right from the front!

"The judgment of justice and the words of power fire, get along and help me out!"

The flame of intense cold that froze the realm of the dead, it was a contradictory existence.

The snake of bluish black flame—was extinguished inside the bird of fire that was blazing crimson.

Without a pause the bird of fire flew toward Athena, enveloping the very young looking goddess of war in flame. Her right half was burned by crimson flame, while her left half was burned by the bluish black flame of intense cold.

The power of Gorgoneion was splendidly returned as retribution toward its master Athena!

"OOOOOOOOOH!?"

The heroic great goddess was writhing in agony from the scorching heat and intense chll showering her.

Ren saw it through and nodded.

"Although you were cautious toward Achilles's shield, Riona's strength had slipped out from your mind as expected. It looked like that girl wasn't even in your vision....."

"Then Aegis!"

The shield of goat skin manifested above Athena. The tool of Zeus that unleashed lightning. However, Ren also took out a talisman from his pocket—the piece of paper that was given to him from Riona, and he threw it to the sky.

"Come, Achilles's keepsake!"

The talisman instantly turned into a round shield and flew like a Frisbee.

It clashed with the rectangle shield of goat skin Aegis. Both of them were sent flying to faraway sky.

"Ku.....! Rokuhara Ren, I'll pay back this debt to you someday!"

Athena yelled angrily, then right after that.

The appearance of the goddess who was at her early teen suddenly changed.

She grew up by around five more years—into an adult beauty. She was clad in a white garment and on her back were bird wings. It was the goddess who used her own body as a shield to cover Athena just a little while ago.

"Nike!?"

Ren was shocked. He wondered if it was ^{substitution} ^{technique} kawarimi no jutsu.

The whole body of the winged Nike was burned by crimson flame and chilled by the bluish black flame—she crumbled into pieces like sand.

The goddess who had been originally injured died in the place of her master.

And then, when he looked up to the night sky.

A Pegasus placed Athena on its back and flew away.

Epilogue

1

Dawn arrived at Troia.

The world was dyed in rose color by the light of the rising sun.

The city and the surrounding as far as the eye could see were petrified by the power of a divine tool called Gorgoneion. But right now, the petrified human, animal, vegetation and the rest were completely returned to normal.

Ren and Riona were outside the city.

They were on the sandy beach that became the landing point of Greece army last night.

Ren stared at the ocean, then he stared at Troia that was towering above the hill at the opposite side. He nodded in satisfaction of their accomplishment and praised his lovely partner.

"Riona, you're really amazing. Everything has returned to normal."

"That's because Athena is gone from this place, so the curse can be lifted easily. Of course, onmyouji who can do that is only me or Abe no Seimei, and perhaps Ashiya Doman at best.....only practitioner at the class of demigod can do this."

Perhaps because of the aftertaste of mission accomplished, Riona's frivolous talk also sounded like she was delighted.

Just a little while ago, she threw a talisman to above Troia and applied the secret technique of Disaster Exorcism to the whole city. As the result, the people, things, and everything else that turned into stone returned to

normal. It was a miracle that was possible due to her onmyouji skill. However.

Riona didn't apply the effect to Greece allied army.

She ordered to the twelve divine generals, "the shikigamis that they eyes couldn't see" to bring the Greece soldiers that became stone statue—until their warships. The shikigamis finished the transport work in one, two hours using their exceptional diligence and physical strength.

And then, the ships sailed out along with the sunrise.

The ships rode the waves that Riona's technique created. The fleet that was boarded by the petrified Greece soldiers was set adrift toward the open sea.

What would happen to their journey from here on? Only god would know.

"Riona, we should leave too."

"Yes. The space distortion that is connected to the surface world.....I'm also sensing that it's starting to shrink bit by bit. It will completely vanish sooner or later. We have to withdraw now while we can."

"It will be nice if there is still time to say goodbye to Cassandra at least."

The goddess of beauty and Love Stella=Aphrodite had assimilated with Ren since a long time ago.

That was why, they could return right away. And then they had to do so before the [gate] of space-time that was the space distortion vanished.

.

Princess Cassandra was also at the sandy beach.

However she was watching Rokuhara Ren and Toba Riona from slight distance away.

The man and woman from foreign country—no, from another world looked at the sea absentmindedly while basking in the afterglow of victory.

But, Cassandra was looking at a completely different thing.

She was having a vision of the future slightly ahead from now with the spiritual power that was granted to her from sun god Apollo.

"A new journey. A new sanctuary. And then a new—enemy. Standing on the way of Ren-sama, is a terrifying wolf..... The king of demonic wolf who murdered even god....."

The severity of that battle, the fierceness would be unimaginable.

What should she do? She asked that question to herself, then Princess Cassandra discovered an answer and made a big nod.

.

2

[.....The space distortion in Kobe is somehow vanishing.]

From the speaker of car navigation system that was connected to a smartphone.

A native Japanese language, furthermore it was with the bright voice of a woman was flowing from there.

[Thank you Julio. It's thanks to the agent that you dispatched here. Well, it's also thanks to our Riona accompanying him though.]

"I'm thankful from the bottom of my heart for the cooperation of all of you, the Institute of Divinities of Japan."

Julio Blandelli answered with the same Japanese to the other party.

He was driving a car under raining sky. He had just arrived at Barcelona Airport from Sicily Island around two hours ago. From there he personally drove a car that his subordinates prepared for him and returned until his hometown Valencia.

The big city at the coast of Mediterranean Sea that was also a provincial capital located in the eastern part of Spain—.

Right now Julio was in the middle of driving in that Valencia.

By the way, a heavy rain was continuously pouring down in almost the whole area of Southern Europe since yesterday morning. It was said that the East Asia area with Japan at the center was also experiencing the same thing.

Storm blew violently, the sea was also stormy, and large waves were surging incessantly.

The cause of such stormy weather was naturally Sanctuary Troia. But the wind and rain finally weakened since around six hours ago.

[The situation at Sicily is also alright isn't it?]

"Yes. The space distortion there is also already starting to shrink. Most likely it will vanish completely within six hours. That's the prediction of my spiritual sight user. The distortion point connected to Troia at Indonesia still exist, but I'm telling someone to check the situation there too right now."

[Which distortion point Riona and your agent will come out from I wonder?]

"Who knows. Well, if they escaped from the Sicily's distortion, our association will take responsibility to welcome them. We will show appreciation to their hard work in their journey."

[That's right Julio. Don't try to scout that girl amidst the turmoil okay?]

".....I'm sorry but your voice isn't clear just now. I'll call you again later."

[Ah, wait-. You're trying to dodge the talk when I hit the bull's eye—]

He softly touched the touch panel of the smartphone and then went until his destination.

It was a western-style mansion that looked old. Several century must had passed since it was built.

There was no one around. It was only old without any historical value worth mentioning. It was a place that tourist also wouldn't visit. The place was also not opened to public.

And then above all else, a powerful [guard] was placed in this place.

As soon as Julio entered the ground, “an existence that was only voice” whispered into his ear.

[So you've arrived, descendant of my king.]

"A sanctuary has just been resolved. I want to check the situation with
Watch of Destruction Premonition
the Doomsday Clock."

[Very well. You can enter.]

It was the voice of a female. And then, the voice was extremely dignified.

If this beautiful voice was accompanied by a real body, the person who heard this voice would surely expect an appearance that was worthy to be called as “a beauty in man's clothing”——.

The protector had given her permission, so Julio walked forward without reservation.

Within the mansion's ground there was a two-storied building that was the main building in the shape of a western mansion, then there were three large buildings and a small chapel that were separated from the main building. Julio entered the last building.

Inside the chapel that was decorated with colorful stained glass—

Was empty. There wasn't almost any object placed inside.

However, there was a pedestal at the center of the floor that was covered with tiles. A classic round mechanical clock with diameter of 3 meter was placed on it.

The golden short hand and long hand were pointing at Roman numerals, notifying the time.

"The time right now is 22:55..... Yesterday, before Ren returned to Sanctuary Troia, the time was 23:15. The time winded back by twenty minutes."

[If I'm not wrong, it will be bad if the hands pointed to 00:00 right?]

The dignified voice asked. Julio nodded.

"Yeah. The time of demise will begin, the rage and lamentation of gods will whirl in the world—"

Right after he muttered, the long hand moved with a clack.

Time moved forward by a minute. Julio sighed. The arrival of destruction still hadn't been halted, it was in the middle of progressing bit by bit.....

[Be careful, king's descendant. An uninvited guest.]

"? We'll just need to drive them away like usual. That's your role."

[It's a troublesome man. It will be hard to face him without exerting my full strength. But, it'll also be a waste to pointlessly use the Holy Grail here..... Deal with him skillfully.]

"Don't tell me a god manifested?"

[No. Doesn't matter, if it's you then you will immediately see through his true identity.]

It was right at that instant. He felt an abnormal presence behind him.

Julio shuddered and turned around. His body had several protection magic applied on it as befitting of a high ranked magician. He made those magic to observe the presence.

It felt like a wild beast had sneaked up on him—it was a wild presence with killing intent.

(.....Wolf?)

Such image surfaced in Julio's mind for an instant.

But it was a "human" who came here.

He was still young. He must be at the middle of his twenty. He was a Caucasian with a silver hair that was cut short. However, the hair around the top of his head was wildly standing on end.

And then, despite his hairstyle, his face could be said to be intellectual.

He was wearing a nicely tailored dark grey business suit. His eye glint was extremely sharp.

"Hou. So that thing is the so called clock of doom."

The voice of the youth who came from behind was heavy. It was filled with grandeur that didn't suit his youthfulness.

"I see. Certainly there is worth in taking a look at it. And then, it doesn't look like it has more value than that. You magician there, is this thing under your management?"

"Yes—but, let me ask you yourself who asked me that, who are you?"

"That's an insolent question. Well, I'll forgive you. And then, if the time comes that I learn you have the worth, then I'll introduce myself to you once again at that time."

‘Kukuku’, the silver haired youth snickered and his emerald colored eyes stared at Julio.

If pushed to say what kind of body this person had, then it had to be said he was someone slender. However, the wave of [strength] that was emitted from inside him—was honestly overpowering.

Julio recalled the time when he confronted a god in the past. But, this man had no sublimity that was unique to gods. He came to an unbelievable realization.

Could this man be “the same” like that overly carefree Japanese youth—? Julio groaned.

"So there is a second one.....?"

"Second? Aah, you mean that brat loitering around this neighborhood? I too have heard the rumor. However, there is a mistake in your perception."

The youth’s eyes that gave the impression of a wolf or tiger—his eyes of carnivore were narrowed.

"Rather than the second, you should count me as the first, magician."

The godslaying [beast] twisted his lips into a deep smile and declared so.

Then he turned his back on Julio and left from before him. The aloof wolf calmly walked away, overlooking the pitiful herbivore. This situation was similar to that.

Julio was convinced. If he approached that back with a malicious intention—

"I’ll immediately get bitten to death....."

[You’re clever, dear child. As to be expected from Julio Blandelli.]

Julio was praised by the unseen protector while he sighed once more.

Because he was able to feel sure that hardship was still waiting in the future of their association Campiones and Rokuhara Ren.

Afterword

.

◆ To everyone who read Takedzuki Jou's book for the first time with this novel

Everyone, nice to meet you.

My many thanks for taking Takedzuki Jou's newest work Shiniki no Campiones at this chance.

The theme of this work is journey and mythology.

It's a journey in the world of mythology in the attempt of editing the plot.

To speak further, it's also a saga that is related to god's power and the great feat of godslaying.

This time, what I chose as tour planner was Greek mythology and Trojan War—that is to say the world of minstrel Homer.

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The great poet Homer that is the pride of Greek mythology and Europe civilization.

Perhaps Japanese is more deeply familiar with King Arthur or Zhuge Liang, but the big names over there are none other than Achilles and Hector that Homer recited in his poem, they can be said to be the representative of heroes. In some situation even the children of Japan might recall the name of Zeus or Athena first rather than Amaterasu Ookami. After all the name of constellation is rooted to Greek mythology.

Regarding Greek mythology, internet and books are flooded with absurd number of explanation.

However when you tried to directly look at Homer which is one of the original, there is description that gave off the smell and breath of primitive religion, there is description that made you imagined ancient history,

civilization, and customs. You can find interestingness hiding here and there that simply doesn't exist in folk tale.

Also apparently Goddess Aphrodite was included in the framework of[moe character], even in the poet of Homer she was firmly displaying the style of a clumsy girl.

Thinking that I want to write an adventure drama that is journeying the myth while conveying such charm, I wrote this book.

.....By the way, there are also many superfluous talks of history and mythology that will become redundant if I include them in this passage.

Literary miscellany that is related to that kind of thing is posted in the Twitter of Takedzuki Jou where you can read it. Those who are interested, please take a look at it by all means.

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Now then. At the next volume I planned to introduce new enemy and new world.

If it pleases you, please take a look of the journey there too.

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◆To everyone who don't know anyone named Takedzuki Jou, but have the recollection of reading or watching light novel or anime with similar name like this book

There won't be any problem at all even if you don't pay any attention to the little details.

Shiniki Campiones volume 1 is a completely new work that you can fully enjoy with only this book alone. I hope that you can read this book casually.

Oh? But, you readers are saying that you can't help but feel curious?

In that case, it will also be alright if you read Takedzuki Jou's book[Campione!] series that is introduced like in the cover extension of this book. Actually in that series there are also humans who killed even god appearing there. They did whatever they pleased in the story.

But it's a story of a completely different world, so I think there isn't really any need to be bothered about it.....

.

◆ To everyone who read through all the books of the aforementioned series

.....Certainly, I had given notice previously that the stage of this new work is[A world without (existence that can be called) Campione].

But, I completely didn't say that[there won't be any godslayer].....

Although, everyone here must have known my modus operandi well.

While reading this book, surely there are a lot of readers who quickly saw through"Description trick""The main character is a narrator that cannot be trusted"tricks that I often used in my work.

And then, the relation between Campione! And Campiones.

Perhaps there are also those who noticed the similarity with old title like Hi no Tori: Houou-Hen or Taiyou-Hen, or with relatively new titles like Guoparade March or Shikiomi no Shiro. About link of worlds or parallel world or alternate reality.

About what kind of connection two worlds have or something like that.

For those who know it, I've buried some hints here and there that you can analogically infer.

For those who love that kind of puzzle, I hope you can have fun with it.

Of course, there is no need to force yourself to solve it. Even the stance of simply wanting to enjoy this tale won't pose any problem I believe.

.

◆ To all the readers

In any case it will be to my pleasure if you all can enjoy Shiniki no Campiones.

Thank you very much for everything.

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